



August 2025

# THE POLISHED SLAB

## SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUNDS SINCE 1940



VOLUME 85 ISSUE 08

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

**September 4, 2025 - Board Mtg**  
**September 8, 2025 – Genl Mtg**

#### SNGMS Contacts:

www.sngms.net  
sngmsnews@gmail.com  
sngmspresident@gmail.com  
sngmsvicepresident@gmail.com  
sngmssecretary@gmail.com  
sngmstreasurer@gmail.com  
sngmsshowchair@gmail.com  
sngmspublicity@gmail.com  
sngmsjamboreeshowchair@gmail.com

### VIVA LAS VEGAS ROCKS! VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Please contact Karen Griffith-Hedberg (kgriffithhedberg@yahoo.com) to volunteer. The show runs Nov 7 - 9, 2025 at the Santa Fe Station Casino

#### Inside This Issue

<i>Field Trips &amp; Events</i>	2
<i>Board Meeting Minutes</i>	3
<i>General Meeting Minutes</i>	4
<i>Sunshine Report, Rock Spotlight</i>	5
<i>Corporate Sponsors</i>	2, 6, 9, 11,13, 15
<i>Meeting Dates, Center Hrs, &amp; Maps</i>	7
<i>Studio Tips and Tricks</i>	8
<i>Cabochon Contest</i>	9
<i>Birthdays, New Members, Speakers</i>	10
<i>Kids' Club</i>	11
<i>SNGMS Volunteer Staff</i>	12
<i>Life Time Member</i>	13
<i>Mineral Musings</i>	14
<i>Class Schedules</i>	15
<i>Polished Slab Advertising Rates</i>	16

Greetings -

Hopefully you were able to attend the SNGMS General Meeting on August 4, 2025. If not, you missed a lot of good discussion around the five year initiative update provided. The initiative was started at the first of the year.

First a reminder of the driver behind this initiative. When our lease was up for the Lapidary and Education Center last year it was starkly apparent that SNGMS had not positioned itself to do anything except pay the 40% rent increase or lose the Center altogether. This initiative is meant to fix that.....and why is it called the five year initiative you ask?? Great question - that is the term of the lease we signed in order to get some discounts on rents. A power point presentation about the initiative was sent as an email after the General Meeting. I would ask that you go back through and review it and even if you missed this months meeting, we are not done talking about it. I recommend you plan to attend the next couple of months (actually all of the meetings, but that is another story) so you can have a voice about where we are going in five years (a little under four now). Possible change happens smoothest when you are informed, make a plan, and then work the plan. We are in the informed/make-a-plan phase so now is the time to start participation.

ROCK ON!!

Orville Wiemers  
SNGMS President

Sincere thanks to Thomas Boes for his exceptional management of the audiovisual equipment during our General Meetings over the past six months. Thank you to Fawn Gifford for graciously volunteering to take on the responsibility of overseeing this important volunteer position moving forward. Your contributions are greatly appreciated!



2025 Field Trips<sup>1</sup> & Events

Field Trip <sup>1</sup> /Event	Date	Location
Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies Convention	September 19 – 21, 2025	Grand Junction, CO
Hummingbird Mine for shattuckite <sup>1,2</sup>	October 2025	Tonopah, ARIZONA (not Nevada)
SNGMS Viva Las Vegas Rocks! Gem and Mineral Show	November 7 - 9, 2025	Santa Fe Station Hotel & Casino
Awards Banquet	December 7, 2025	Sunset Station Casino, Las Vegas, NV

1) Field trip destinations, dates, and times are subject to change. Contact Jonathan Tredwell (sngmsfieldtrip@gmail.com)

2) Check [https://youtu.be/mGOkQ1\\_X61Y?si=zdDNaVRYFi\\_UCNqU](https://youtu.be/mGOkQ1_X61Y?si=zdDNaVRYFi_UCNqU) for a video about the Hummingbird Mine

# Rock, Gem & Jewelry Show

## Santa Fe Station Casino

4949 N Rancho Dr, Las Vegas, NV 89130



# VIVA LAS VEGAS ROCKS

## November 7th, 8th & 9th

Over 40 Vendors showcasing the finest gem and mineral experience in Las Vegas. Take part in exciting demonstrations of lapidary arts, local geology, and much more. Don't miss this opportunity to discover the fascinating world of gems, minerals, and jewelry. Come add some treasures to your collection, or find gifts for the Holidays!

[www.snvgs.org](http://www.snvgs.org)





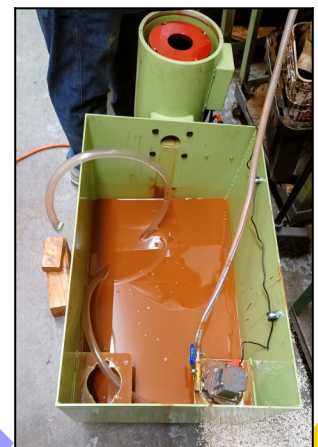

# QUARTZSITE MINERALS

SNGMS Members Receive **20%** Discount



[www.quartzsiteminerals.com](http://www.quartzsiteminerals.com)  
Visit Our Store At Suite # 1290  
**MEADOWS MALL**  
[quartzsiteminerals@gmail.com](mailto:quartzsiteminerals@gmail.com)  
702-344-8579

**WHOLESALE / RETAILS**

New SNGMS Oil Filter In Action



Members Working at the SNGMS  
Lapidary and Education Center

## SNGMS Board Meeting Minutes for 7/31/2025

On June 31, 2025, the regular Board of Directors meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 4:14 PM at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop and Education Center by the President. All board members were present. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the July 3rd, 2025 meeting were approved as read.

**Treasurers Report:** Balance of the checking account as of the end of June 2025 was down by approximately \$2,500, and the investment account was essentially unchanged. Upcoming expenses include an August payment for the Viva Las Vegas Rocks! show and a September payment for the SNGMS awards banquet. Lapidary income was down and repair costs are up from 2024.

### Unfinished Business:

The five year strategic plan will be presented at the General Meeting. It will be discussed several times before the membership is asked for approval.

Lorrilee Stackhouse reported that Google Workspace for Nonprofits is working and Mary Savage has already uploaded all digitized club newsletters.

Lisa Wiemers, as Historian, introduced a list of document retention policies that were discussed and amended by the Board. She will be digitizing relevant documents and managing the hard copy document storage. The Board decided that the document retention policies should be part of the By Laws. Some Officer and Chair sections of the By Laws may need to be brought up to date and the Parliamentarian, Mike Kirk, will organize a committee to make recommendations on modified By Laws to be presented to the Board and then to the General Membership for approval.

**SNGMS Lapidary and Education Center Report:** Kerry Wenzel reports that one saw is down and they are short three supervisors.

**Viva Las Vegas Rocks Show:** Andrea Packo reports that 31 vendor booths have been sold out of a total of 61 booths. Facebook ads are being placed and our website Viva Show page has been updated with added information and links for vendor document and payment, ticket sales, and volunteer opportunity descriptions.

### New Business:

**Volunteer Hours:** Ron Mazz discussed collection of 2025 SNGMS volunteer hours and how that will be done.

**Google for Nonprofits:** Google workspace training will be done in September for Board members.

**Lapidary Equipment:** Orville Wiemers is organizing a committee to study the cab machine wheel situation. They will recommend which wheels to purchase and a wheel replacement policy.

**SNGMS Outreach:** Harvey Bergeron discussed the SNGMS video and having club members speak to other groups in the area to spur interest in the SNGMS. The video need modification to make is looping and Andrea Kincannon is having that done.

Board meeting moved to an executive session, and adjourned at 6:21 pm.



## SNGMS General Meeting Minutes for 8/4/2025

On August 4th, 2025, the regular meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 6:00 PM by the President. The Secretary was present. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited. New members and visitors were introduced and welcomed. Tables with show and tell items were pointed out so that attendees could enjoy them. The minutes of the July 7th, 2025 meeting were approved as read.

### Old Business:

**Treasurers Report:** Balance of the checking account as of the end of the month is down by approximately \$2,500, and the investment account is essentially unchanged. A very successful equipment auction essentially made up for the monthly income loss, thanks to Chops Wenzl, Orville Wiemers, and Bruce Martin.

**Kids Club:** Wendy Dresser reported on the Kid's Club activities and said thanked everyone that helped or donated to the club. On Sunday, August 10, 2025 the kids will meet at the Lapidary and Education Center to work on their Communication Badge. On September 13, 2025 a field trip to the Dinosaur Discovery Museum in St. George, Utah is planned. During the Viva Las Vegas Show the kids will be doing demonstrations on November 8 and 9, 2025. Plans are underway for a Halloween party in conjunction with the Eagles and for a trip to the Ore Car Mine site for geocaching, rock hounding, and a bar-be-que.

**Field trips:** Jonathan Tredwell reported on upcoming field trips. See the Polished Slab newsletter and emails for future field trip plans.

Orville Wiemers discussed the destruction of a practically new trip saw blade and members discussed how the equipment should be used to avoid harming it. Suggestions were made including making and putting videos on the website of proper equipment usage. Possible certification was also discussed as well as members taking action if they see unsafe equipment operation.

Orville Wiemers discussed the Strategic Plan and an email of the presentation will be sent to all members. The plan will be revisited in September.

**Cabochon Contest:** First place –Patty Johnson, second place – Ralph Voelker. This was Patty's first entry into the contest!

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

**Rocky Mountain Federation:** Mary Beth Paladino reported that the RMFMS convention is coming up in Grand Junction Colorado

**New Business:** Collection of volunteer hours for 2025 will begin soon. Ron Mazz will send an email with an attached spreadsheet for members to fill out with their hours and return to Ron.

Orville Wiemers has established a committee to review the cab machine wheel situation. This group, consisting of teachers, maintenance, and heavy users of the cabbing equipment, will provide possible solutions and standardization methods for managing the cabochon machines.

The web address of our web site has changed to [www.sngms.net](http://www.sngms.net). The old address of [www.snvngms.org](http://www.snvngms.org) will continue to redirect to the website for some months.

A 2026 Nominating Committee is needed. It was formed with Peggy Sue Moore as chair, and Lorrilee Stackhouse and Sara Tredwell as members.

**Viva Las Vegas Rocks Show:** Volunteer sign-ups have started. There are 32 booth rentals have been paid.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 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.

Pat Skeary's family thanked SNGMS for sending flowers for Pat's funeral. Ken Martin is in rehab for a broken hip. Harvey Bergeron is undergoing vein treatments. Cliff Jackson has some mobility issues. Jerry Hughes and Susie Butkus were in separate car accidents. Linda Martin is undergoing some medical treatments.

## Michael Heyl

SNGMS member Michael Heyl has died. Michael and his family have participated as vendors in our gem and mineral shows. His family invites SNGMS to pay their respects at Michael's memorial service:

Friday, August 15, 2025 noon – 5 pm

Affordable Cremations

2127 West Charleston Blvd.

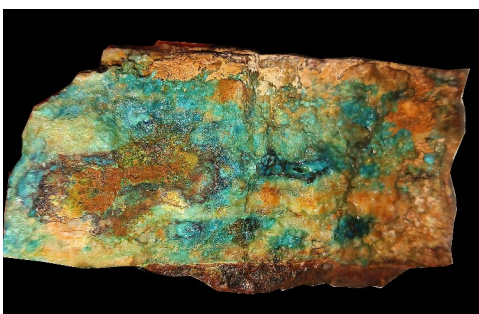
Las Vegas, NV 89102

## Rock Spotlight Shattuckite

Shattuckite is a relatively rare copper silicate mineral. It was first discovered in 1915 at the Shattuck (sic) copper mine in Bisbee, Arizona (hence the name). Shattuckite has also been found at found at the Betty Jo Claim in White Pine County, Nevada. The Democratic Republic of Congo, Namibia, and southwestern Africa have also produced some shattuckite.

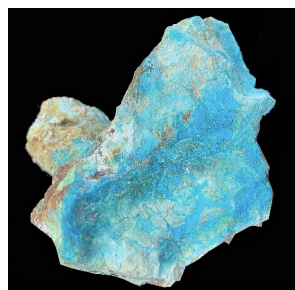
Because of its bright blue and green colors, shattuckite is highly collectible. It's typically found in the oxidized zones of copper deposits, where the primary copper minerals undergo weathering and react with surrounding rocks and minerals. Shattuckite is often found with other copper minerals like malachite, azurite, chrysocolla, and turquoise. These deposits are usually in sedimentary rocks, especially in deserts where copper-bearing solutions percolate through the ground.

Shattuckite often forms as thin veins, crusts, or pockets inside the host rock, instead of large ore bodies. Specifically, it's found as fibrous or botryoidal structures, or as crusts on the walls of cavities. These forms contribute to its visual appeal. It's a fairly soft mineral, with a Mohs hardness of 3.5 – 4.



Shattuckite Specimen from Hummingbird Mine  
Tonopah, Arizona

[lapidaryslab.com/product/hummingbird-mine-shattuckite/](http://lapidaryslab.com/product/hummingbird-mine-shattuckite/)



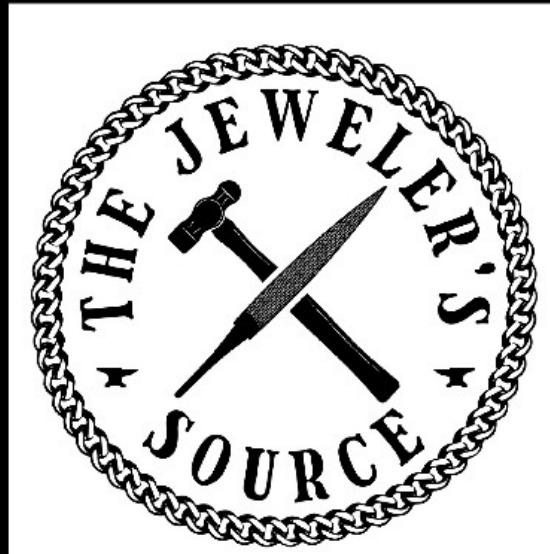
Shattuckite Specimen from  
White Pine County, Nevada

[www.ebay.com/itm/306219199199](http://www.ebay.com/itm/306219199199)

## VIVA LAS VEGAS ROCKS! VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Please contact Karen Griffith-Hedberg (kgriffithhedberg@yahoo.com) to volunteer. The show runs Nov 7 - 9, 2025 at the Santa Fe Station Casino. The next meeting is August 23, 2025 12:30 pm at Desert Art Supplies, 2750 N Green Valley Pkwy Suite D, Henderson, NV 89014.





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](mailto:thejewelerssource@gmail.com)

IG - thejewelerssource



SNGMS Meeting Schedules and SNGMS Lapidary & Education Center Hours

SNGMS 2025 Meeting Schedule		
Board Meeting <sup>1</sup>	General Meeting <sup>2</sup>	Kids Club Meeting <sup>3</sup>
		Aug 10
Sep 4	Sep 8	Sep 13 Field Trip, St. George, UT
Oct 2	Oct 6	Oct 12
Oct 30	Nov 3	Nov 16
Dec no meeting, Awards Banquet	Dec no meeting, Awards Banquet	Dec no meeting, Awards Banquet

**LAPIDARY SUPERVISORS WANTED**  
 Volunteer to be a Lapidary Supervisor! Complete the Orientation and Cabochon Classes (or equivalent), and we will train.  
 Contact Chops Wenzl  
 702-378-2205

- 1) Meets at SNGMS Lapidary and Education Center
- 2) Meets at Eagles' Lodge 1<sup>st</sup> 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 and Education Center with exception of some field trips, membership required. Details on page 3.
- 4) Text Wendy Dresser, 702-556-2748 to reserve a spot

**Location of the SNGMS Lapidary & Ed Ctr**

**3111 South Valley View Blvd,  
 Building E 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 Center). 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 & Education Center that is not in front of any unit.

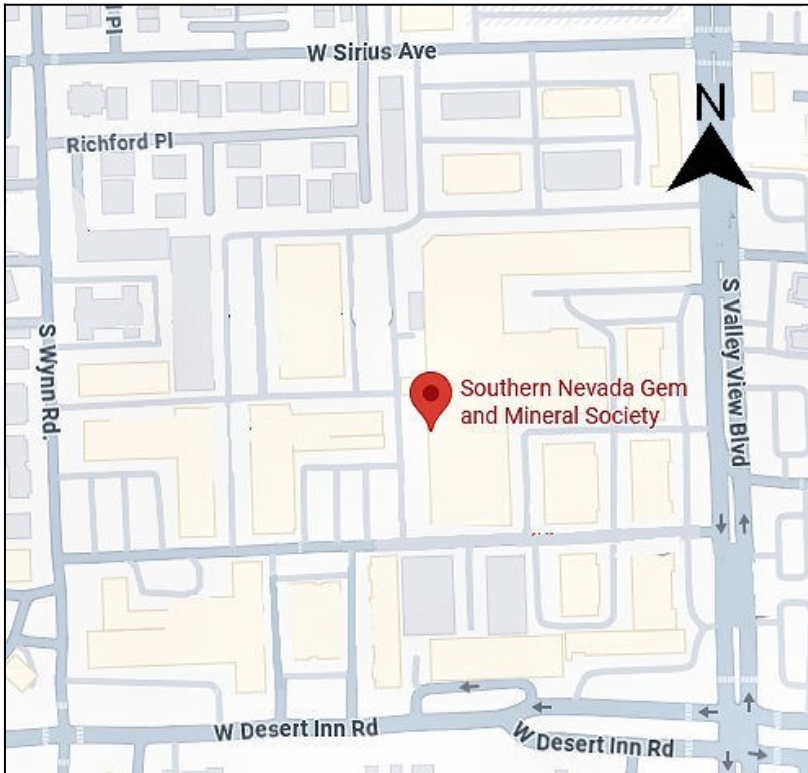
**SNGMS LAPIDARY AND EDUCATION CENTER HOURS\***

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

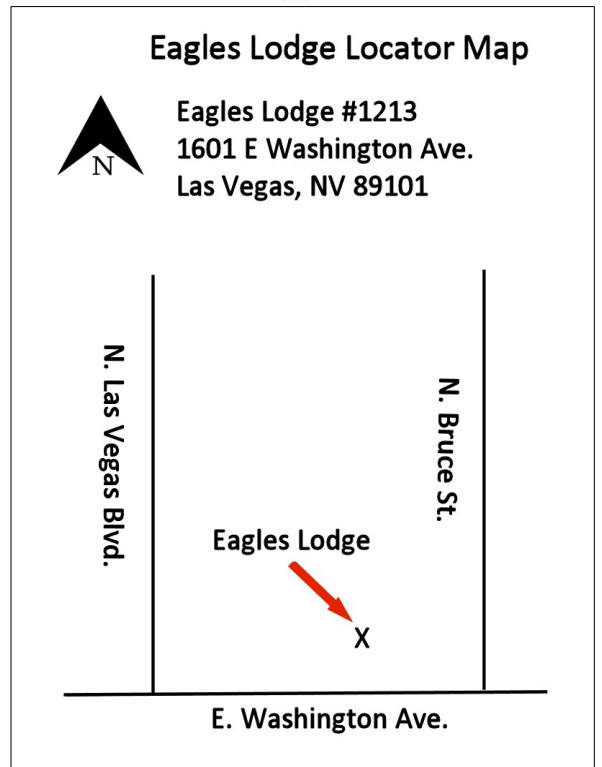
**EQUIPMENT FEES:**  
 All equipment is \$6/hour. Machines are metered, so you only pay for the time the equipment is actually running.

**CENTER CLOSED:**  
 Kids Club: 3- 5 pm 2nd Sunday of the Month

*\*Check Email and "Polished Slab" for possible date changes.*



**Location of SNGMS Lapidary & Education Center**



## Lapidary/Jewelry Studio Tips & Tricks

### Chainmaille

#### What is Chainmaille?

Chainmaille (also known as chainmail, or simply maille) is armor or jewelry made by connecting metal rings to one another. The word maille comes from the French word for mesh. Creating maille involves a few steps:

- 1) Wrap metal wire around a rod to make a coil.
- 2) Cut the coil to create jump rings
- 3) Using pliers, link the rings (one at a time) into a pattern.

You can buy pre-made jump rings or make your own.

Chain maille started out as a form of armor. People discovered that linked rings created a durable fabric that could protect the body from being cut in battle. Many contemporary jewelry patterns of linking rings have their roots in armor. Several patterns of linking the rings together have been used since ancient times, with the most common being the 4-to-1 pattern (where each ring is linked with four others).

#### Making Chainmaille

To make chain maille, you need jump rings—lot of them! Two pairs of chain nose pliers are the only tools you'll need for chain maille; a pair of bent nose pliers and a pair of standard chain nose pliers work well.

Pay attention to the inner diameter of your jump rings. If it's too small, you won't be able to link all the rings you need to create your pattern.

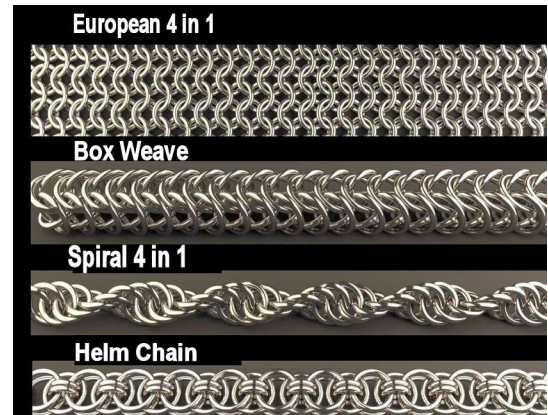
Open your jump rings properly. You don't want your jump rings slipping apart after you've spent hours assembling an intricate piece of chain maille jewelry! Always open jump rings by twisting the ends apart, moving perpendicular to one another (north-south). Never open a jump ring by pulling the ends apart (east-west).

If possible, open and close your jump rings only once. As you work with jump rings, the metal hardens and stiffens. If you open and close a jump ring too many times, the metal eventually becomes brittle and breaks. Try to open all your jump rings before you begin linking them, setting them in small, labeled piles on your work surface. This way, you only have to open and close them once (ideally) to prevent breakage in the middle of your project.

#### More Information

For a comprehensive catalog of chainmaille weaves, see:

<https://www.mailleartisans.org/weaves/>



A Small Sample of Chainmaille Patterns

<https://chainmailjoe.com/products/complete-chainmail-kit-20-weave-tutorial-book-23-000-ringsover-4-pounds-clasps-tools>



Chainmaille Bracelet  
[etsy.com](https://www.etsy.com)





2025 Cabochon Contests

MONTH	2025 CABOCHON STYLE	Contest Winners
January	Impressionism – Monet, Degas, Renior, Cassatt	1 <sup>st</sup> – Del Walkenshaw, 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Bruce Martin, Emlyn Altman, Joel Coombs
February	Cubism – Picasso, Braque, Cezanne, Exter	1 <sup>st</sup> – James Sloan 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Lloyd Chayette, George Stewart
March	Abstract – Mondrain, Rothko, Pollick, O’Keeffe	1st - Lloyd Chayette, 2nd - Jonathan Tredwell
April	Sea Scapes - Friedrich, Mallord, Turner, Sorollo, Hassam	1 <sup>st</sup> – Ralph Voelker 2 <sup>nd</sup> – George Stewart
May	Surrealism – Dali, Kahlo, Lucien Freud, Breton	1st – Lloyd Chayette 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Joel Coombs, Ralph Voelker
June	Architectural –Rodde, Caillebotte, Hadid, Canal	1 <sup>st</sup> – Ralph Voelker 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Lloyd Chayette
July	Expressionism – Kandinsky, Chagall, Macke, Bossi	1 <sup>st</sup> – James Sloane 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Lloyd Chayette, George Stewart
August	Contemporary (any type) – Picasso, Warhol, Murakami, Kapoor, Sherald	1 <sup>st</sup> – Patty Johnson 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Ralph Voelker
September	Fauvism – Matisse, Derain, Roualt, de Vlaminck, Charmy	
October	Landscapes – Carr, Homer, Theibaud, da Vinci	
November	Graffiti – Bansky, Fairey, Halring, Lady Pink	
December	No Contest	

The SNGMS hosts a cabochon contest at 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 lapidary time, and the second place winner gets 1 hour of free lapidary time. The September 2025 cabochon theme is “Fauvism.” **Good Luck!**

Fauvism Examples



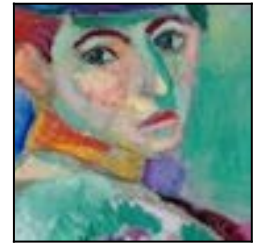
Charmy



Derain



Vlaminck



Matisse



Left to right: Patty Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Ralph Voelker, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place



August 2025 SNGMS Cabochon Contest Entries

**EAST FREMONT** Free Event  
Sponsored By Art Box by Luz!

# Festival of Arts

SEPTEMBER 13, 2025 2-8 PM

**PERFORMANCE BY**

- AUSTIN LIGHTFOOT
- LUCAS MARC ROCK AND GEM SHOW

**RECITAL BY**

RARE SPARK LESSONS

- LOCAL ARTISTS
- DJ & LIVE MUSIC
- KIDS ART
- FOOD TRUCKS

**CONTAINER PARK**

707 EAST FREMONT STREET  
BETWEEN 7TH & 10TH STREETS



BIRTHDAYS

If you have a SEPTEMBER birthday, Please bring something for the refreshment table at SEPTEMBER'S meeting.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



Colleen Ambler, Nyeisha Boes, Theresa Brooks, Suzi Butkus, Janet Cote, Ava Curley-Weeda, Michael Diener, Mark Djurdjevic, Quinn Dresser, Raymond Eash, Eva Ensthaler, Eva Fleming, Robert Gayman, Kathleen Greene, Jeff Greenwood, Adrienne Hale, Jana Hassett, Steve Hopkins, Jill Jones, Michele Keene, Gail Lehtinen, John Lighton, Thomas McBride, Steven McCaw, Priscilla Messenger, Mike Mitchell, Michelle Muniz, Jenny Pike, Rick Raybould, Andria Reichel, Terry Reid, John A. Riley, Nicholas Roberts, Norman Rosensteel, Hassani Scott, Nick Sharrer, Susan Sharrer, Joann Sprott, Paul Toves, Debbra Weibert, Rosa H. Westrate, Marjorie F. Woodall, Tomasz Zaborowski

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

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

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 & Education Center. **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 Sessions

Orientation and Training Date	Time	Cost	Location
August 10, 2025	10 am - noon	\$10	SNGMS Lapidary & Education Ctr 3111 South Valley View Blvd, Building E Suite 125 Las Vegas, NV 89102 Building E Suite 125 Las Vegas NV 89102
September 14, 2025			

Speakers For 2025 General Meetings

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

Date	Speaker	Topic
Sep. 8	Stephanie Foote and Susan Sotile Hindmarsh, Las Vegas Bead Society	Lovely Beaded Things
Oct. 6	Michael Green, UNLV Dept. of History	A History of Mining in Nevada
Nov. 3	-	SNGMS Elections

LAPIDARY SUPERVISORS WANTED

Volunteer to be a Lapidary Supervisor! Complete the Orientation and Cabochon Classes (or equivalent), and we will train.

Contact Chops Wenzl 702-378-2205

**SNGMS Rock Stars Kids Club  
2025 Field Trips and Meetings<sup>1</sup>**

Field Trip/Meeting	Date	Location
Rock Stars Kids Club Meeting 3 – 5 pm	Aug 10	SNGMS Lapidary & Education Center <sup>2</sup>
Dinosaur Discovery Site Museum Trip <sup>3</sup>	Sep 13	St. George, UT
<b>NO MEETING</b>	<b>Sep 14</b>	
Rock Stars Kids Club Meeting 3- 5 pm	Oct 12	SNGMS Lapidary & Education Center <sup>2</sup>
Halloween Party 12 - 2pm <sup>3</sup>	Oct 18	Eagles Lodge <sup>4</sup>
Viva Las Vegas Rocks Demos by Kids <sup>3</sup>	Nov. 8 & 9	Santa Fe Station Casino
Ore Car Mine Field Trip, 8 am – 2 pm <sup>3</sup>	Nov 15	SNGMS Lapidary & Education Center <sup>2</sup>
	Dec no meeting, Awards Banquet	

- 1) Field trip destinations, dates, and times are subject to change.
- 2) 3111 South Valley View Blvd., Building E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102
- 3) Text Wendy Dresser, 702-556-2748 to reserve a space
- 4) Eagles Lodge, 1601 E. Washington Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89101

**Dinosaur Discovery Site Museum, St. George, Utah**

Saturday, September 13th  
7:00 am (returning approx 6 - 7 pm)  
RSVP REQUIRED  
CALL/TEXT WENDY DRESSER AT 702-556-2748

**Halloween Party, Eagles Lodge**

Saturday, October 18  
12:00 - 2:00 pm  
Eagles Lodge  
RSVP REQUIRED  
CALL/TEXT WENDY DRESSER AT 702-556-2748

**Viva Rocks Show at Santa Fe Stations Casino**

Friday, Saturday & Sunday November 7, 8 & 9  
Kids need to sign up to do demos with Wendy  
RSVP REQUIRED  
CALL/TEXT WENDY DRESSER AT 702-556-2748

**Ore Car Mine Field Trip**

Safety Briefing, Geo Rock Caching, Rockhounding & BBQ!!!  
Saturday, November 15  
8:00 am - 2:00 pm  
RSVP REQUIRED  
CALL/TEXT WENDY 702-556-2748



Kids Club at the Clark County Museum, July 2025  
Photo courtesy of Wendy Dresser

## SNGMS 2025 VOLUNTEER STAFF

Contact any Director to volunteer for a position, or a Committee Chair to offer to help on their committee.  
SNGMS 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICE	DIRECTOR	EMAIL	PHONE
President	Orville Wiemers	sngmspresident@gmail.com	702-743-3277
Vice-President	Ron Mazz	zman8229@gmail.com	586-914-4130
Secretary	Lorrilee Stackhouse	lorrilee@proton.me	702-817-5602
Treasurer	Dave Ford	sngmstreasurer@gmail.com	831-521-0214
Parliamentarian	Michael Kirk	vpoker81@cox.net	702-433-4146
Past President	Andrea Packo	aspacko@gmail.com	702-279-7679
Three Year Board	Harvey Bergeron	harveyrita@gmail.com	
Two Year Board	Jean Chayette	jalmiz201@gmail.com	714-474-6384
One Year Board	Bob Belcher	f35fighter@yahoo.com	702-210-9612

## SNGMS 2025 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

COMMITTEE	CHAIR	EMAIL	PHONE
Communication	Del Walkenshaw	sngmsnews@gmail.com	702-451-8040
Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies	Mary Beth Paladino		702-255-1647
Media Committee	Kendra White	kendrarubywhite@gmail.com	
Field Trip	Jonathan Tredwell	sngmsfieldtrip@gmail.com	725-377-0166
Lapidary Manager	Chops Weinzl		702-378-2205
Historian	Lisa Wiemers	lowiem@embarqmail.com	
Hospitality	Mary Beth Paladino		702-255-1647
Inventory	Ron Mazz	zman8229@gmail.com	586-914-4130
Membership	Claudia Crouse	ccrouse295@gmail.com	
Newsletter	Mary Savage	lasvegassilversmithing@protonmail.com	
New Member Liaison	Amber Palecek		702-343-7150
Program (Speakers)	Romy Umholtz	romyvision@gmail.com	
Raffle	DiAnn Lawson	diannmariehayes@yahoo.com	702-577-7183
Refreshments	Richard and Elizabeth 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 Weimers	sngmsjamboreeshowchair@gmail.com	702-743-3277
Sunshine	Mary Beth Paladino		702-255-1647
Viva Las Vegas Rocks Show	Andrea Packo	aspacko@gmail.com	702-279-7679
Webmaster	Lorrilee Stackhouse	lorrilee@proton.me	702-817-5602

### Nominating Committee for 2025 SNGMS Elections

Peggy Sue Moore, Lorrilee Stackhouse, and Sara Tredwell volunteered to be the 2025 Nomination Committee. The following officers are running for re-election: Orville Wiemers (president), Ron Mazz (Vice President), Dave Ford (Treasurer), Mike Kirk (Parliamentarian). The following offices fill automatically: 2 year board member (Harvey Bergeron) and 1 year board member (Jean Chayette). Nominees for the following offices will be identified by the Nomination Committee: 3 year Board Member, Secretary.

SNGMS CORPORATE SPONSORS



**DESERT ART SUPPLIES**

*“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
--	---

Toll Free 1-888-725-4666 • [www.desertartsupplies.com](http://www.desertartsupplies.com)  
 desertartsupply@aol.com

**Ann Sherman Spector**  
**November 21, 1913 – July 19, 1999**  
**Life Time Member**

Ann Sherman was born in Chicago. She was a professional dancer, and performed at 1933 Chicago World’s Fair with burlesque star Sally Rand. Ann married a musician named Benny Spector. They had two daughters.

Ann and Benny were members of the Chicago Rock and Mineral Society. Ann edited their newsletter, and served as the Chicago rock club’s secretary and as the hospitality chair.



**Ann Spector, about 1985**  
*SNGMS Archives*

Her daughters went to day camp in Chicago, and one of their teachers had a hand-made jade ring. The girls introduced Ann to the teacher, who taught Ann lapidary work and silver smithing. Benny became interested in stone cameos. The family moved to Las Vegas, Nevada, around 1979 and started a business to import cameos, lapidary work, mineral specimens, and objects d’art.

Ann and Benny joined the Clark County Gem Collectors (CCGC) in 1980. Ann served as vice president, program chair, hospitality chair, and as Christmas Bazaar Director. She wrote for *The Polished Slab* newsletter. Both her exhibits and demonstrations drew praise at shows. The Spector home was open to CCGC craft workers and Ann hosted CCGC board meetings for several years.

Benny died in September 1985, but the import business continued. The family blended business and pleasure on twice-a-year buying trips abroad. Ann died in 1999. Ann and Bennie are buried in King David Memorial Chapel and Cemetery Las Vegas, Nevada.

**HI-TECH DIAMOND DISCOUNT**

Hi-Tech Diamond is an online seller of cabbing 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](http://www.hitechdiamond.com).

**How did the geologist win a lawsuit?**

**By taking advantage of the quartz system**



## Mineral Musings

### Graptolite Fossils

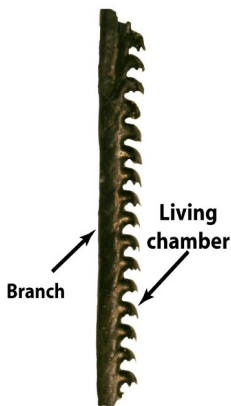
[www.nps.gov/articles/000/fossil-graptolites.htm](http://www.nps.gov/articles/000/fossil-graptolites.htm)  
<https://www.fossils-facts-and-finds.com/Graptolite.html>  
<https://samnoblemuseum.ou.edu/common-fossils-of-oklahoma/invertebrate-fossils/graptolites/>  
<https://inyo.coffeecup.com/site/tr/toquima5.html>

Graptolites are colonial marine animals. They were thought to be extinct, but a group of modern deep-sea colonial worm-like filter feeders called pterobranchs have been discovered to be modern graptolites.

Extinct graptolites lived in seas covering central Nevada 541 – 376 million years ago. Graptolites are an important group of index fossils because they evolved rapidly and were widely distributed. They provide valuable insights about geological dates and early ocean ecosystems.

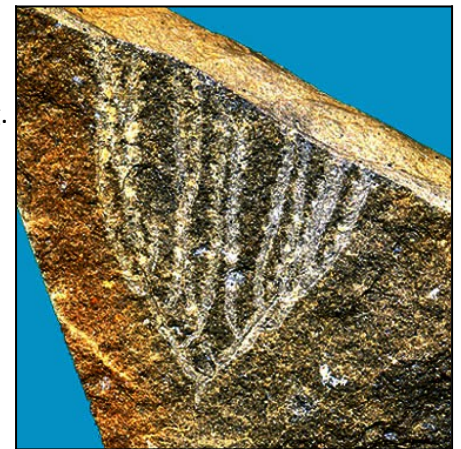
There are thousands of known species. Graptolites lived in many marine habitats, including open oceans, shallow seas, and even freshwater!

#### What Did Graptolites Look Like?



Graptolites animals lived together in groups or colonies and shared the same skeleton, like an apartment building. Each animal built its own “apartment” or living chamber, and these were stuck together to make the colony. Different species of graptolites had branches with different shapes. They could be straight, curved or even spiral-shaped.

Many graptolite fossils are well preserved. This is partly because the colonies secreted a stiff outer coating that fossilized well.



#### Graptolite Colony

<https://samnoblemuseum.ou.edu/common-fossils-of-oklahoma/invertebrate-fossils/graptolites/>

#### Graptolite Fossil from the Vinini Formation

<https://inyo.coffeecup.com/site/tr/toquima5.html>

#### How Did Graptolites Eat?

Graptolites were filter-feeders and their colonies were usually planktonic, floating in the ocean currents. They used tentacles lined with hairs that helped capture and transport food particles to their mouths.

#### What Ate Graptolites?

Graptolites were a food source for trilobites, benthic organisms, and other suspension feeders. The extinction of graptolites caused changes in predator-prey relationships and the subsequent rise of new organisms.

#### Where Are Graptolite Fossils Found?

Graptolite fossils are found worldwide and in sedimentary rocks, most commonly in shales and mudstones. Because the fossils are fragile, careful extraction techniques and preservation methods are needed to obtain complete and detailed specimens. The Vinini Formation between Elko and Ely, Nevada contains graptolite fossils.



### August 2025 Class Schedule

(see page 10 for New Member Orientation Schedule)

Class	Instructor	Date and Time	Cost	Location	Contact
Wire Wrapping	Peggy Sue Moore	Monday, August 18 5 pm	\$5 (yup, \$5) plus \$1 for pattern	SNGMS Lapidary & Ed. Cntr <sup>1</sup>	moorepeggysue@gmail.com
Faceting	Tom Kidwell	Saturdays 9 am - 1 pm	\$15.00 for the class plus \$5.00 for instructor fuel fund	SNGMS Lapidary & Ed. Cntr <sup>1</sup>	moorepeggysue@gmail.com for reservations - must commit to 3 consecutive classes
Cabochon Making	Beth Jones	Saturdays 1 pm – class <b>limited to 3 people</b>	\$10	SNGMS Lapidary & Ed. Cntr <sup>1</sup>	punkyjones@hotmail.com for reservations

1) 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102

All SNGMS class fees include a modest donation to the SNGMS.

#### Beginning Silver Smithing Classes

Fridays 9:30 am - 12:15pm

**Desert Art Supplies**  
2750 N Green Valley Pkwy Suite D  
Henderson, NV 89014  
702-451-8040

Learn the basics of silver smithing. Students learn how to use a jeweler’s saw, solder, set stones, and cast silver. Supplies needed for the first project in copper are provided. Student tool kits and materials for subsequent projects are available for purchase from Desert Art Supplies.

\$40/class, class sizes are limited.  
Call 702-451-8040 for availability.

[www.instagram.com/lvsilversmithing](http://www.instagram.com/lvsilversmithing)



**SNGMS members receive  
first class free with this ad & proof of  
membership**  
*Paid Advertisement*



August 2025 SNGMS Wire Wrapping Project  
Photo courtesy of Peggy Sue Moore



Silver Smithing Student with Ring  
Photo courtesy of Bella Romero

#### Awards Banquet Auction Items Needed

For the annual SNGMS Awards Banquet, please donate your new or gently used items. A table has been set up at the SNGMS Lapidary and Education Center where you can leave your donations.

Hand made items are preferred.  
Tools accepted.

Thank you!



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.sngms.net](http://www.sngms.net)  
 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
Business Card	\$18	\$30
Quarter Page	\$48	\$90
Half Page	\$90	\$170
Full Page	\$150	\$275

