



January 2025

THE POLISHED SLAB

SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY



A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUNDS SINCE 1940

VOLUME 85 ISSUE 01

UPCOMING MEETINGS

February 3, 2025 - Board Mtg
February 3, 2025 – Genl Mtg

SNGMS Contacts:

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Time to Renew Your Membership

There are several ways to renew your SNGMS membership:

- 1) Online at
<https://www.snvgs.org/sngmsmembership>
(be sure to scroll to the bottom of the page)
- 2) At the SNGMS Lapidary Shop
- 3) At the SNGMS General Meeting
- 4) At Desert Art Supplies, Henderson, NV

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Greetings –

Here is to wishing you all had a great holiday. I know I can't wait to get out there. First thing I want to do is take a moment and thank the outgoing officers and board members. Thanks to Andrea Packo for serving as President for two years as she transitions into a one year board position. Also thank you to Del Wakenshaw and Bruce Martin for their service on the Board. Their wisdom and guidance were greatly appreciated.

So before we start to inventory our tool bags and digging equipment readying ourselves for the season to come, I wanted to share some thoughts. As you all probably are aware we renewed our shop lease last year. When we began the process, it immediately became clear that SNGMS was not prepared to do anything except renew the lease. We negotiated the best we could but the rent went up a significant amount. There were many that wanted to look for other options but we simply were not prepared to do that in the time we had to renew. In May 2024, the Board approved checking into the possibility of purchasing our own property. We now have a team that is investigating what it takes to position SNGMS to both purchase property and become qualified to apply for grants. This team is led by Mary Savage and includes Del Walkenshaw, Ralph Voelker and Bud Cranor. All of these folks have backgrounds in non -profits and working with government and other entities for grants (If anyone else has similar background experience and wants to get involved please contact me (sngmspresident@gmail.com).

Their goal is to gather the information so SNGMS may decide if A) this is something we want to pursue and B) what it is going to take to position ourselves for success on this venture should we decide to move forward. Keep in mind that we are tied to a lease that lasts another four years, so this is definitely a long term project. Updates will be provided as we go.

Well, I am sure you have heard enough from me for this month so let's get ready and go have some fun!!!! Enjoy this month's Slab. .

Rock on!!!

Orville Wiemers, President SNGMS



2025 Field Trips¹ & Events

Field Trip ¹ /Event	Date	Location
Fluorite, amethyst, jasper, chrysocolla	January 18 – 19, 2025	Quartzsite, AZ ²
SNGMS Financial Review	January 27, 2025 9 am	SNGMS Lapidary Shop ⁴
SNGMS BBQ. Bring a side dish to share. Drinks available for purchase.	February 22, 2025 10 am – 2 pm.	SNGMS Lapidary Shop ⁴
Onyx and travertine field trip	February, date TBA	Skeleton Hills, Nye County, NV
Parking Lot Sale ³	March 8, 2025	Desert Art Supplies 2750 N Green Valley Pky Suite D Henderson NV 89014

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

2) Contact Emlyn Altman (702-527-8199 or emlyn_altman@yahoo.com)

3) Contact Del Walkenshaw (702-451-8040 or desertartssupply@aol.com)

4) 3111 South Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102

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



2025 SNGMS Board of Directors

Left to right:

Jean Chayette (2 Year Board Member), Lorrilee Stackhouse (Secretary), Mike Kirk (Parliamentarian), Orville Wiemers (President), Andrea Packo (Past President), Mary Beth Paladino (Federation Representative, swearing in the Board), Harvey Bergeron (3 Year Board Member, Ron Mazz (Vice President), Dave Ford (Treasurer), Bob Belcher (1 Year Board Member)

Photo courtesy of Amber Palecek



Chops Wenzl, SNGMS Lapidary Shop Manager
December 2024

Photo courtesy of Bella Romero



Left to right: Ron Mazz (SNGMS 2025 Vice President)
December 2024

Photo courtesy of Bella Romero

SNGMS Board Meeting Minutes for 1/6/2025

On January 6, 2025, the regular Board of Directors meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at the Eagles' Lodge at 4:00 PM by the President. All Board members were present. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited.

Minutes: The minutes of the November 4th, 2024, meeting were approved as read.

Unfinished Business:

Treasurers Report: Balance of the checking account as of December 31, 2024 was \$17,538, a decrease of \$2,808 from the previous month, primarily due to Award Banquet expenses. The investments balance is \$128,184. There will be a meeting about finances at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop on January 27, 2025 at 9 AM.

Shop Report: Storage situation and possible actions were discussed. Purchase of an oil cleaning machine was discussed. Del Walkenshaw proposed, seconded by David Ford and accepted by the board that "Membership be presented with a proposal to purchase an oil cleaning machine for up to \$2,500." A Supervisor/Engineer/Class Instructor meeting is scheduled for January 7, 2025. A sign for 'No Credit' should be posted in the SNGMS Lapidary Shop.

Orville Wiemers reported on the 2024 Viva Las Vegas Rocks Show. The profit for the show was \$3,867.33. Membership will be presented with choice of having a show next year.

New Business:

Andrea Packo proposed, seconded by David Ford and approved by the Board that "a Jamboree budget of \$6,000 be presented to the membership for approval."

Andrea Packo proposed, seconded by Bob Belcher and approved by the Board that "up to \$600 be spent acquiring materials for Jamboree, Viva show, auctions, raffle, and presenter gifts."

Andrea Packo proposed, seconded by Lorrilee Stackhouse and approved by the Board that "a 2025 Viva Las Vegas Rocks Show budget of \$35,000 be presented to membership for approval." The increase is due to anticipated venue increase and increased publicity needs.

A parking lot sale will be held on March 8, 2025 in the Desert Arts parking lot in Henderson. There may be a charge to SNGMS by the shopping center for future sales.

Andrea Kincannon gave an update on the SNGMS Lapidary Shop video progress.

The Board discussed the need for a five-year plan and a group to work has been formed.

A new member and visitor table is being re-introduced at the General Meeting hosted by Amber and Steve Palecek. A plan to introduce new members to the club and shop is being implemented. Show and Tell at the meetings is encouraged.

A BBQ at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop will be scheduled for February 22, 2025.

A Five-Year Strategic Positioning Team has been formed to look into future SNGMS Lapidary Shop locations and possibilities so that we are prepared when our current lease expires.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:19 PM.



SNGMS General Meeting Minutes for 1/6/2025

On January 6th, 2025 the regular meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 6 p.m. by the President. The Secretary was present. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited.

A new member and visitor table is being re-introduced at the General Meeting hosted by Amber and Steve Palecek. A plan to introduce new members to the club and shop is being implemented. Show and Tell at the meetings is encouraged.

The minutes of the November 4, 2024 general meeting were approved as read.

Old Business:

Treasurers Report: The balance of the checking account as of December 31, 2023 was \$17,538, a decrease of \$2,808 from the previous month, primarily due to Award Banquet expenses. The investments balance is \$128,184. In 2024, there was the highest club revenue in the last five years, but also the highest net loss in the last five years. There will be a meeting about finances at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop on January 27^{, 2025} at 9 a.m.

Kids Club: Wendy Dresser reported on the Kid's Club activities and said thanks to everyone that helped or donated to the club. On November 10th the kids were able to finish the Lapidary Badge.

SNGMS Lapidary Shop Report: Chops Wenzl reported that two saws are currently down. A Supervisor/Engineer/Class Instructor meeting is scheduled for January 7, 2025.

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

Cabochon Contest: First place – Del Walkenshaw, Second Place – Bruce Martin /Emlyn Altman/Joel Coombs.

Shows: Orville Wiemers reported 2024 attendance was down at the Viva Las Vegas Rocks Show, but the SNGMS made \$3,867.33 profit.

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

New Business:

Amber Palecek proposed, seconded by Del Walkenshaw, and accepted by the membership that “a \$6,000 budget be approved for the Spring Jamboree Show.”

Lloyd Chayette proposed, seconded by Bob Belcher and accepted by the membership that “an Evergreen Clean oil cleaning machine be purchased for up to \$2,500.”

Mary Savage proposed, seconded by Debbie Bucknam that “a \$35,000 budget be approved for the Viva Show.” Peggy Sue Moore asked for a breakdown of the budget and the motion was tabled until next month when details will be provided.

Future Events: Parking Lot Sale May 8, 2024 at Desert Arts in Henderson, NV. SNGMS BBQ at the Lapidary Shop Feb. 22, 2025. A Five Year Strategic Positioning Team has been formed to look into future SNGMS Lapidary Shop locations and possibilities so that we are prepared when our current lease expires.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 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.

Dean Sizemore president of the Reno, Nevada Gem and Mineral Society died. Bob Lofaro, a former SNGMS board member, died. Ann Harris has a rare blood cancer. Diane Hale had knee surgery. Mona Howells, a former SNGMS member, had heart problems. Doris Taylor and Pat Skeary have not been well. Nancy Tatum is improving. Wendy Dresser's husband is stable. Jim Jones is hanging in there. Amber Palecek's mother is having some heart issues

Sunshine Report Volunteer Needed

Contact Orville Wiemers for details

sngmspresident@gmail.com or 702-743-3277

Did You Know?

SNGMS general meeting attendees are encouraged to bring specimens, stones, jewelry, etc. to "show and tell" with others before the meeting.

Spotlight on Azurite

Azurite is a soft, deep-blue copper mineral produced by weathering of copper ore deposits. It has been known since ancient times. Copper gives it its blue color. Azurite precipitates in pore spaces, fractures, and cavities of the subsurface rock. The resulting azurite is usually massive or nodular. Rarely, azurite is found as stalactites and botryoidal growths. The presence of azurite is a good surface indicator of the presence of weathered copper sulfide ores.



Azurite from Potosi Mine, Clark County, NV
<https://www.mindat.org/photo-139137.html>

Azurite has a Mohs hardness of 3.5 to 4. It is a carbonate ($\text{Cu}_3(\text{CO}_3)_2(\text{OH})_2$) and it fizzes when hydrochloric acid is dripped on it. Azurite is unstable compared to malachite, and often weathers to become malachite. Nevada has azurite deposits throughout the state, usually with copper ore deposits.

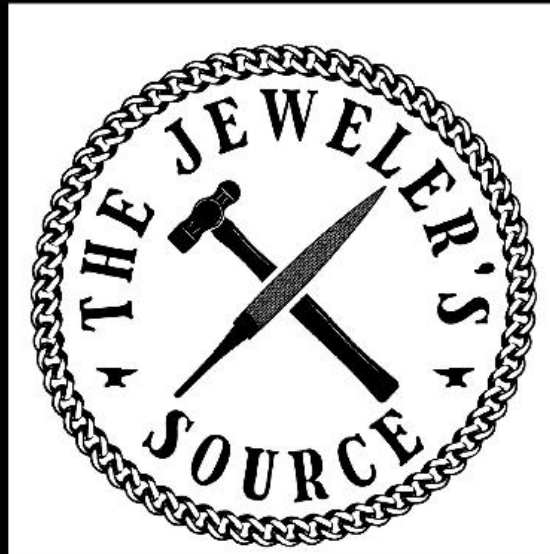
Azurite was used as a blue pigment. Depending how finely it was ground, it gave a wide range of blues. When mixed with oil it turns slightly green. When mixed with egg yolk it turns green-grey. Older azurite pigment may have a green tint due to weathering into malachite. Heating can be used to distinguish azurite from ultramarine blue, a more expensive but more stable pigment. Ultramarine withstands heat, but azurite changes to black copper oxide. However, gentle heating of azurite produces a deep blue pigment used in some Japanese painting techniques.

Azurite is sometimes used in jewelry, and as an ornamental stone. However, its softness and tendency to lose its deep blue color as it weathers limits its use. The intense color of azurite makes it a popular collector's stone

Did You Know?

If you wear your official SNGMS nametag to the monthly meeting, you get an extra free door prize ticket. Nametags are available for \$10 each. Orders can be placed through Claudia Crouse by sending an email to sngms.vegas@gmail.com and paying for them at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop. Badges must be paid for before they're ordered and must be picked up at the shop.





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 2025 Meeting Schedule		
Board Meeting ¹	General Meeting ²	Kids Club Meeting ³
Jan 6	Jan 6	Jan 12
Feb 3	Feb 3	Feb 9 – Trilobite Field Trip
Mar 3	Mar 3	Mar 9
Apr 7	Apr 7	Apr 13 – Field Trip TBA
May 5	May 5	May 11 – NO MEETING
Jun 2	Jun 2	Jun 8
Jul 7	Jul 7	Jul 13 – Field Trip TBA
Aug 4	Aug 4	Aug 10
Sep 8	Sep 8	Sep 14
Oct 6	Oct 6	Oct 12 – Field Trip TBA
Nov 3	Nov 3	Nov 16
Dec no meeting, Awards Banquet	Dec no meeting, Awards Banquet	Dec no meeting, Awards Banquet

Due to limited staffing of the SNGMS Lapidary Shop on Sundays, shop users are asked to help keep the trash emptied and the floor mopped

1) Meets at Eagles' Lodge, 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 with exception of some field trips, membership required. Details on page 11.

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:

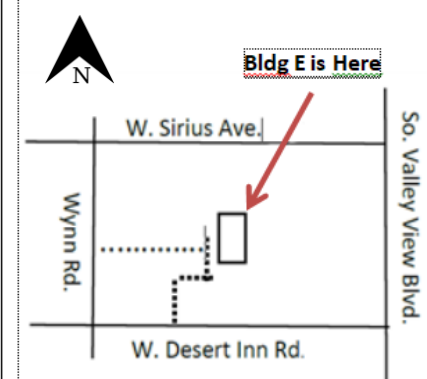
All equipment is \$6/hour. Machines are metered, so you only pay for the time the equipment is actually running.

SHOP CLOSED:

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

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

SNGMS Lapidary Shop Locator Map



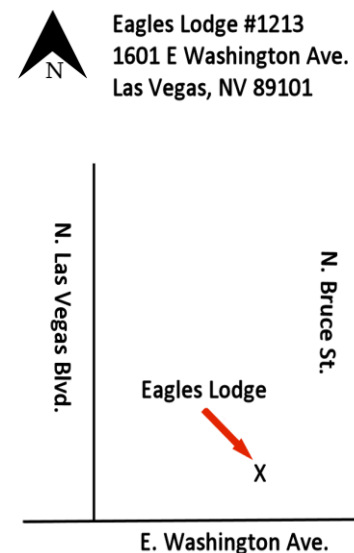
Finding the SNGMS Lapidary Shop

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

Eagles Lodge Locator Map



Backup SNGMS Lapidary Shop Supervisors Needed

Please contact Chops Weinzel if you can help (702-378-2205)

Lapidary/Jewelry Studio Tips & Tricks**Pre-forming Rough for Cabbing or Faceting**

<https://www.gemsociety.org/article/lapidary-fundamentals-cutting-rough-stones/>

Preforming is the initial step in lapidary work, where rough stones are shaped into manageable pieces. Using hammers and/or saws, artisans remove excess material, preparing the stones for further shaping

Rock Hammer

A fast way to break a large rock to smaller pieces is with a rock hammer, but there's not much control. If the rock has a fracture, you can usually break it along that line. Cutting a kerf in the stone and hitting it with a hammer gives more control over the pre-forming process. A kerf is a shallow saw cut, usually less than an inch deep. To cut a kerf, set one end of the rock on a trim saw table and one end on the blade. Then, gently rotate the rock forward as the saw blade spins until a kerf is cut. Make sure the blade doesn't bend. Do this at your own risk! If you don't have a keen eye, a steady hand, and an adequate attention span, you'll ruin the blade. Place a chisel or large screwdriver in the kerf and give it a solid blow with a hammer. The rock will split under the kerf. This technique doesn't always give a clean, straight split, but it usually works well.

Nippers

You can purchase tile nippers from hardware stores or online. Nippers remove small amounts of material from either facet rough or edges of cabbing material that's already been slabbed. Place the blade of the nippers on the area to be removed and squeeze. On a fractured gem, you can press on the fracture with the nippers and cause it to finish splitting all the way through. This will save more material than the most careful sawing, since the fracture may be a curved line. A saw can only cut in a straight line, and you'll always lose the width of the blade.

**Saws**

Hammering is not a good pre-forming method for fragile or valuable stones. For these materials, saws and tile nippers are best. Lapidaries use slab saws and trim saws. The difference between the saws is mainly the size blade. Trim saws have small, thin blades that remove a minimum of material. Slab saw blades are thicker because they are designed to do heavier cutting. Trim saws use 4" to 6" blades that run between .004" and .012" thick. Slab saw blades run from 6" to 36" with thickness of .025" to .200".

Feeding a Trim Saw

With trim saws, you feed the stone into the blade by hand. Stand so your primary eye is in a direct line with the saw blade so you can see if the blade starts to bend. If the blade bends, you're not feeding the stone straight. Keep the saw table around the blade clear of debris. Bits of rock can deflect the stone. Make sure the stone is held against the saw table as it slides it forward.

Removing a bare minimum of unneeded material from facet rough can be difficult. Sawing off too much is expensive. Learn to feed stones into the trim saw blade by hand at whatever angle is best for preserving material. First, either find a line on the surface or mark the stone where it needs cutting. Now, keep your eye in line with the blade. Hold the marked line on the stone straight to the blade. Feed it gently and watch the saw blade constantly. If you see any bending, make a gentle but immediate adjustment.

Lubricating a Trim Saw

The SNGMS Lapidary Shop uses oil as a trim saw lubricant. However, trim saws will last and work well without any lubrication other than water. BUT, you must add a rust preventative to the water OR empty the reservoir after use and rub some mineral oil on the blade to prevent rust. Some people add Jet Dry dishwasher rinse to the water to prevent rust. Kingsley North Gem Lube is a water soluble biodegradable lubricant that can be used as a rust preventative.

Cleaning a Trim Saw

Periodically, you'll need to clean the saw lubricant reservoir. You need a large can or bucket to hold the used lubricant, scrapers, and rubber gloves to protect your hands. Open the valve or tip the saw to remove the lubricant. Scrape out the sludge left at the bottom of the reservoir. A putty knife is good for getting into corners. Properly dispose of the sludge. DO NOT dump it down any plumbing; the sludge will clog it. Oil must be disposed of in accordance with environmental regulations.



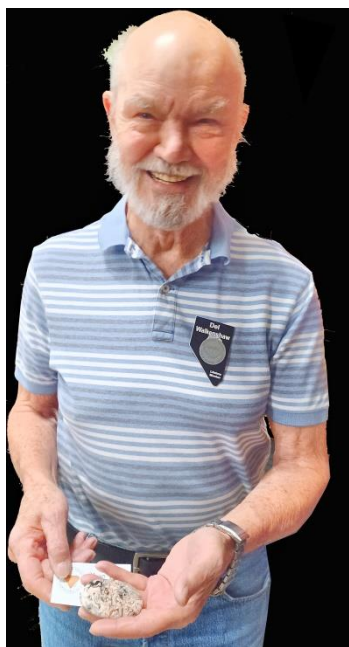
2025 Cabochon Contests

MONTH	2025 CABOCHON STYLE	Contest Winners
January	Impressionism – Monet, Degas, Renior, Cassatt	1 st – Del Walkenshaw, 2 nd – Bruce Martin, Emlyn Altman, Joel Coombs
February	Cubism – Picasso, Braque, Cezanne, Exter	
March	Abstract – Mondrain, Rothko, Pollick, O'Keeffe	
April	Sea Scapes - Friedrich, Mallord, Turner, Sorollo, Hassam	
May	Surrealism – Dali, Kahlo, Lucien Freud, Breton	
June	Architectural – Rodde, Caillebotte, Hadid, Canal	
July	Expressionism – Kandinsky, Chagall, Malfati, Macke, Frankenthaler	
August	Contemporary (any type) – Picasso, Warhol, Murakami, Kapoor, Sherald	
September	Fauvism – Matisse, Derain, Roualt, de Vlaminck, Chamy	
October	Landscapes – Carr, Homer, Theibaud, da Vinci	
November	Graffiti – Banksy, Fahey, 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 shop time, and the second place winner gets 1 hour of free shop time. The February 2025 cabochon theme is "Cubism." **Good Luck!**



Alexandra Exter Cubist Painting
<https://alexandra-exter.net/en/biography/>



Del Walkenshaw, 1st Place, entry 5



Left to right, 2nd Place Tie Winners:
 Bruce Martin entry 4, Emlyn Altman entry 7, Joel Coombs entry 10



January 2025 Cab Contest Entries
 (sorry, entries 9 & 10 are missing, they snuck in when the photographer wasn't looking)



BIRTHDAYS

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

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

James Andrew, Jon Asdourian, Linda Beatty, Rita Bergeron, Diane Burgess, Jeff Cutler, Kevin David Donovan, James (Jim) Grulke, Chris Hill, Dustin Hines, Lisa Johnson, Leesa Kidwell, Andrea Kincannon, Sean Larscheidt, Clint Lawson, Mario Luchetta, Glenn Marks, Matthew McCalla, Miesha McIntosh, Charles Mendoza, Roy L. Mobley, Tracey Montague, William (Bill) Moore, Jesse Moyer, Anjenette Nelson, Andrea Packo, Kelly Parker, Ruth Parker, Kelly Prince, Joseph Puccio, Juliette Richardson, Linda Rusk, Patricia Skeary, Jennifer Solas, George Stewart, Katherine Sullivan, Robin Jill Swasey, Jeanette Thompson, Taciana (Inday) Timbers, Jack Toogood, Bryan Vickery, Emily Volk, Charla Vrchota, Eowyn Walton, Lisa Wiemers, Jolena Wright, Kevin Zeigler

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Allon Amen, Katherine A. (Kathy) Botsford, Katherine E. (Kate) Botsford, Debbie Boyce, Jeff Boyce, Charles Castelli, Ambre Chaudoin, Evan Dent, Timothy Devito, Trinity Devito, Tyleigh Devito, Raymond Eash, Olin Feuerbacher, Matt Hale, Caterina Hale, Alaric Hale, Adrienne Hale, Mark Jacobson, Fred Lee, Beckee Lee, Joseph (Joe) Leising, Christina Lopez, Trevor Manuel, Tawni McGuire, Parker Meyer, Kathy Mundine, Candy Munkres, Dave Munkres, Paul O'Bannon, Nicholas Roberts, Jacob Smith, Tina Spotofora, Sandy Spotofora, Sandra Stewart, Gordon Stewart, Elaine Stochinsky, Victoria Terzo, Brock Wilke, Coraline Wilke, Ila Wills, Reva Winningham, Dustin Winningham, Jeff Winston, Imelda Winston, Jeff Winston, Imelda Winston, Victor Zamora

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 Shop.

To reserve your spot, please email Richard Nelson (richard_nelson89@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
January 12, 2025	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
February 10, 2025			
March 10, 2025			
April 14, 2025			

Speakers For 2025 General Meetings

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

Date	Speaker	Topic	Date	Speaker	Topic
Feb. 3	Trent Moats: Muralist and Tattoo Artist	Macro and Micro in Art	Jun. 9	Nick Barnes	Highlights From My Personal Collection
Mar. 3	Romy Umholtz	Rock Blocks, Crystal Houses, and Other Artworks	Jul. 7	Garrett Wake: NV Abandoned Mine Program	How to Stake a Mining Claim
May 3	Dr. Nick Saines	The Great Unconformity and Frenchman Mountain/Rainbow Gardens	Sep. 8	Josh Solberg	Something Fun and Interesting



**SNGMS Rock Stars Kids Club
2025 Field Trips and Meetings¹**

Field Trip/Meeting	Date	Location
Rock Stars Kids Club Meeting	Jan 12	SNGMS Lapidary Shop ²
Trilobite Field Trip	Feb 9	Frenchman Mountain
Rock Stars Kids Club Meeting	Mar 9	SNGMS Lapidary Shop ²
Field Trip TBA	Apr 13	
Rock Stars Kids Club Meeting	May 11 – NO MEETING	
Rock Stars Kids Club Meeting	Jun 8	SNGMS Lapidary Shop ²
Field Trip TBA	Jul 13	
Rock Stars Kids Club Meeting	Aug 10	SNGMS Lapidary Shop ²
Rock Stars Kids Club Meeting	Sep 14	SNGMS Lapidary Shop ²
Field Trip TBA	Oct 12	
Rock Stars Kids Club Meeting	Nov 16	SNGMS Lapidary Shop ²
Rock Stars Kids Club Meeting	Dec no meeting, Awards Banquet	

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

Happy New Year Rock Stars!

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season with your families. We're starting off the new year with the Maps merit badge. We'll meet at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop on Sunday, January 12, 2025 from 3:00-5:00 pm. Mr. Thomas Boes will teach the class. On Saturday, February 8, 2025, we'll have a field trip to Trilobite Hill. This is where you can use your skills of map and compass reading to lead us to Trilobite Hill where we can all have some fun digging for fossils. I'm looking forward to another good year of rock hounding fun!

See you soon!

Wendy Dresser

Congratulations James Sharrer
for his article
"The Big Trilobite Dig"
published in the December 2024 edition of "Crack The News,"
sponsored by the
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Sunshine Report Volunteer Needed

Contact Orville Wiemers for details

sngmspresident@gmail.com or 702-743-3277



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	f35fighterman@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 Shop Manager	Chops Weinzl		702-378-2205
Historian	Sonya Edwards	worldgemart@gmail.com	
Hospitality	Mary Beth Paladino		702-255-1647
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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 Wiemers	sngmsjamboreeshowchair@gmail.com	702-743-3277
Sunshine	Mary Beth Paladino		702-255-1647
Viva Las Vegas Rocks Show	Andrea Packo	sngmsshowchair@gmail.com	702-279-7679

Sunshine Report Volunteer Needed

Contact Orville Wiemers for details

sngmspresident@gmail.com or 702-743-3277



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SNGMS Life Time Member
Sue Dobson

Sue grew up in Murrieta, California. It was a farming town of about 500 people. When her family visited relatives in the Los Angeles area, she would say there were about 1,000 people so it seemed more urban! Sue was always interested in rocks.

She married Lawrence Albert Dobson, and they moved to Henderson, Nevada. Lawrence died in 2005. That same year, Sue met Erica Hamilton, the owner of the Bead Buffet store in Henderson. Sue taught beading at Bead Buffet for a few months before the store closed.

Erica introduced Sue to SNGMS in 2006. Sue made a few cabochons, did some silver smithing, and went on some field trips, but her allergies were a problem. She served as the refreshment chair for about five years with Joanne Sprott's help. Pat Skeary taught SNGMS beading classes, and Sue helped for six or seven years.

When Pat stopped teaching, Sue and Gary Webb team-taught beading for about seven years. Sue's favorite part of teaching was meeting people and seeing the colors students chose for their projects. Sue sells her bead work at shows. The name of her business is Sugar Art Novelties.

In 2019, Sue became a lifetime member of the SNGMS, along with Joanne and Mick Sprott who joined SNGMS at the same time.

During the pandemic, Sue says "all" the hard-copy bead magazines folded. She wishes they would come back! Online articles are not as satisfying.

Her hope for the SNGMS is that younger members join, and that all the members become more computer savvy so they can use rock identification applications and other resources.



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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.



Sue Dobson
Wearing Some of Her Beaded Creations
November 2024



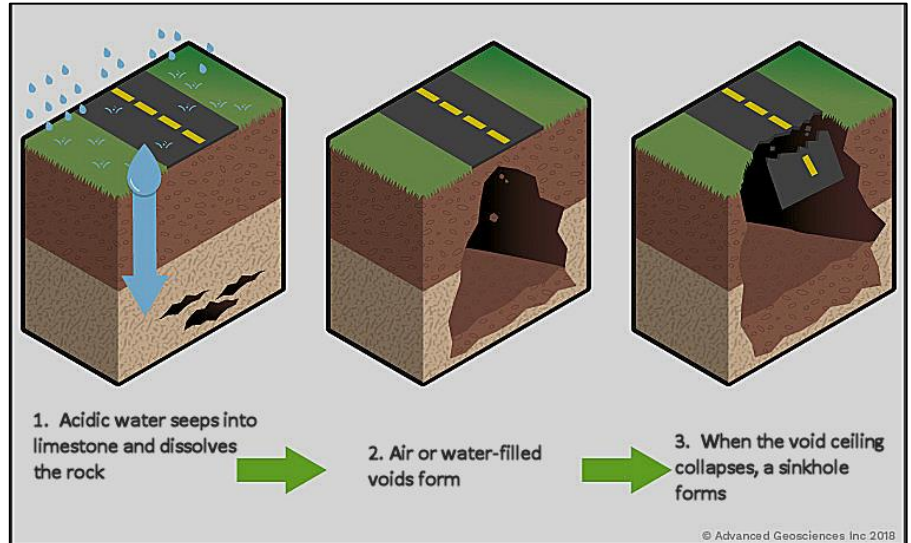
Exploring the Depths

Devil's Throat Sink Hole, Gold Butte National Monument, Nevada

Devil's Throat is a large sink hole within Gold Butte National Monument, east of Las Vegas. It formed when the roof of a large cave collapsed in 1908, leaving a big hole in the middle of the desert. Cowboys and miners in the area saw a cloud of dust off in the distance. When they investigated, they found a large sinkhole. Now known as "Devil's Throat," the sinkhole grew over the years.

Sinkholes are common where the rock below the land surface is limestone or other carbonate rock, salt beds, or other soluble rocks like gypsum. Ground water dissolves the rock. As the rock dissolves, spaces and caverns develop underground. The formation of sinkholes can be dramatic, because the surface land usually stays intact until there is not enough underground support. Then, the surface collapses suddenly and the sinkhole forms.

At Devil's Throat, the ground surface is rocks, gravel, sand, and dirt that eroded off the nearby mountains. The next layer down is gypsum (there are some gypsum outcrops in the area), and the basement rock is limestone. Water moving underground dissolved the gypsum beneath Devil's Throat and washed it away leaving a large cavern, which eventually collapsed.



Sink Hole Formation Process

<https://www.agiusa.com/blog/7-most-common-signs-sinkholes>

Currently, Devil's Throat is about 120 feet wide and about 234 feet deep with a gravel bottom. The sinkhole keeps getting wider because the sides keep collapsing. The walls are almost vertical because they haven't been eroded to form a slope. Devil's Throat isn't the only sinkhole in this area. There are three others near Devil's Throat, and there are more towards the limestone ridge to the south.

The Devil's Throat is fenced off for a reason. The ground around the sinkhole is unstable and the edges crumble easily. The fence gets relocated every few years because the sinkhole threatens to swallow them as it grows. Please exercise extreme caution in the area, especially with children and pets.

A high-clearance vehicle is recommended for travel to the Devil's Throat. Make sure you have enough fuel and drinking water. From Las Vegas, Nevada, it's about a 2 hour and 45 minute drive. Take exit 112 off Interstate 15. This is about 70 miles east of Las Vegas. From exit 112, head south for 3.1 miles on NV-170 toward Riverside. Just after the road crosses the Virgin River, turn right onto Gold Butte Road. Travel down Gold Butte Road for 21.1 miles to Whitney Pocket.



Devil's Throat Sink Hole
Gold Butte National Monument, NV

From Whitney Pocket, continue south on Gold Butte Road for 7.2 miles to Mud Wash Road. Turn right onto Mud Wash Road and drive southwest 0.3 miles to a fork. Devil's Throat Road is on the left and goes to the Devil's Throat parking area, which has post-and-cable fencing.



January 2025 Class Schedule

(see page 10 for New Member Orientation Schedule)

Class	Instructor	Date and Time	Cost	Location	Contact
Beading	Theresa Brooks	Monday Jan 13 from 5 – 8 pm	\$10 (exact change only)	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102	
Faceting	Tom Kidwell	Saturdays 9 am - 1 pm Except NO CLASS Jan. 18	\$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	moorepeggy@sue@gmail.com for reservations - must commit to 3 consecutive classes
Cabochon Making	Peggy Sue Moore	Saturdays 1 pm – class limited to 3 people		SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102	moorepeggy@sue@gmail.com for reservations
Silver Smithing	Andy Gomez	Sundays from 3 – 7 pm Except NO CLASS Jan. 12. Class limited to 6 people	\$25	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102	andrewquiles@andrewgomez415@gmail.com
Silver Smithing*	Bella Romero & Mary Savage	Fridays 9:30 – 12:15 AND 12:30-3:15 pm RESERVATIONS REQUIRED	\$35 all materials provided for first class	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, please INCLUDE YOUR NAME

* Sponsored by Desert Art Supplies

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.



Viking Knit Beading Project
For January 2025

Photo courtesy of Theresa Brooks



Heart Wire Wrapping Project
For January 2025



Ring Made by 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.

<p>SNGMS Mascot: Rock Wren</p> <p>SNGMS Gemstone: Turquoise</p> <p>SNGMS Motto: Rocks-R-Us</p> <p>SNGMS Web Site: www.snvgs.org</p> <p>Membership is open to anyone with an interest in: Rocks, Gems, Geology, Fossils, Lapidary Arts or Silver smithing</p> <p>Annual Dues: Individual - \$25; Family - \$35 Meetings start 6 pm on the first Monday of the month at:</p> <p>Eagles Lodge #1213 1601 E Washington Las Vegas, NV 89101 (702) 642-1213</p> <p>No meeting is held in December. Instead we have our annual awards dinner.</p>	POLISHED SLAB ADVERTISING RATES		
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