



THE POLISHED SLAB

SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY



September 2026

A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUNDS SINCE 1940

VOLUME 86 ISSUE 9

LAST Call!

The Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society's annual Viva Las Vegas Rocks Show has only a few vendor booth spaces left. Grab one before it's too late! This highly anticipated and heavily attended event is an excellent opportunity for vendors to sell wares and showcase work. Family friendly activities, door prizes, auctions and speakers attract collectors and rockhounds of all ages. Visit our website at www.sngms.net to grab your vendor space before they're gone.

BREAKING NEWS

IMMEDIATE NEED FOR FIELD TRIP COORDINATOR(S)

SNGMS is in immediate need of volunteer(s) to take over the Field Trip Coordinator position. After several years of planning and executing amazing field trips, Johnathan Tredwell is stepping down from this position. We thank him for the many fun and exciting trips experienced by SNGMS members. Thank you, Johnathan!

There is an immediate need for one or two people to plan, coordinate, and carry out monthly field trips during the cooler months of the year for our club members to enjoy. Please contact fieldtrip@sngms.net for more information and to become part of our clubs amazing field trip adventures.

Brad's Bench Tips

Identifying Unmarked Solders

There are plenty of ways to mark your sheet or wire solders but suppose you forgot to mark them and have a couple that you can't identify. The answer is to compare the melting temperature of the unknowns with that of a known solder.

Take a thick scrap of copper or nickel and arrange several solders on it. Ideally, have a sample of easy, medium and hard-known solders surrounding the unknown piece. Then heat the plate from the bottom and watch the order in which the solders melt.

Adjustable Chuck for Dremel

Many of us have a Dremel motor tool that we use at home or in a class or workshop. The one simple and inexpensive tool that pumps up the productivity of a Dremel; An adjustable chuck!

The basic Dremel sold comes with a collet chuck. This standard collet chuck means you must use a wrench to change every tool bit you are switching out when using different shaft sizes (3/32" or 1/8" bits for example). You can't use ordinary drills at all; only the special ones that have a 3/32" shaft. A simple and inexpensive (\$12ish) adjustable chuck solves this. Adjustable chucks are available in most large and local hardware stores or modelmaking outlets. Tightening the chuck is done easily by hand to any size shaft. No key is required.



Community Stewardship Day

SNGMS members represented at the Community Stewardship Day in the Arts District in August. The teams assisted with cleaning up trash to make a difference in our beautiful city. Many thanks for the representation and excellent contribution to the community!



Lapidary Safety

Toxic and Hazardous Materials

While you may think that wearing a mask while cutting, shaping and polishing stones and rock materials isn't cool – it may save your life!

Safety is paramount when performing any lapidary function, including polishing. Many of the minerals we handle in our lapidary shops have toxic dust that can and will lead to long-term and severe health problems.

Copper-bearing stones like malachite, azurite and chrysocolla contain high levels of copper oxide which can harm the central nervous system and cause severe irritation if inhaled or absorbed as dust.

Silica, silicate and quartz-based rock, especially engineered artificial stone, releases fine respirable crystalline silica that leads to permanent lung disease like silicosis.

Arsenic-bearing minerals such as orpiment, realgar, rainbow pyrite, and kuprite contain arsenic. This makes their dust extremely dangerous to inhale or ingest.

Mercury and lead minerals release toxic heavy metal or fibrous dust that cause serious lung and system damage. Examples of these minerals are cinnabar, galena and serpentine/asbestos.

Witherite contains barium carbonate. A primary component in rat poison and its dust is toxic when shaped and cut.

How can we protect ourselves and those around us when doing what we love?

- Use wet cutting: Always use water or oil feeds on saws and grinders to suppress airborne dust. This does not eliminate dust but will cut down on the dust in the air.
- Proper ventilation: Make sure you have proper ventilation in the area that you are working. Fans, open windows and exhaust ventilation help to remove toxic airborne particles.
- Wear proper personal protective equipment: Always wear a mask or respirator. If you are not 100% sure about the composition of your stone, mineral or manmade rock, you should always wear a mask or respirator.

Protective eyewear and even gloves are also encouraged and often required when working in club workshops. Dust, flying fragments and particles can enter your body through your eyes and open wounds.

- Use extreme care when sweeping or vacuuming up dry dust. A clean workspace is important but so is your health. Use a wet mop or sponge when cleaning work areas and floors. Make sure your vacuum is equipped with a HEPA filter.

Take the extra step and wear that face mask – it just may save your life!

Useless Facts



Quartz crystals generate an electrical charge when compressed or squeezed. This phenomenon is known as the piezoelectric effect.



Pumice is an igneous rock with so many air pockets that it can float on water until it absorbs enough liquid to sink.



Lightning glass is formed when lightning strikes on sand. The strike can melt silica instantly at over 54,032 degrees Fahrenheit creating glassy tubes called fulgurites.

SNGMS Mascot: Rock Wren SNGMS Gemstone: Turquoise

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in Rocks, Gems, Geology, Fossils, Lapidary Arts or Silver Smithing

Annual Dues: Individual Membership \$35.00 – Family Membership \$45.00

Membership Meetings are open to all members and perspective members.

Meetings start at 6:00 pm on the first Monday of every month and are held at: Eagles Lodge #1213, 1601 E Washington, Las Vegas, NV 89101 (702) 642-1213

SNGMS Board Meeting Minutes - August 31, 2026

The SNGMS board meeting was convened at 4:00 pm with the pledge of allegiance. All board members were present with the exceptions of Jean Chayette and Michael Kirk who were excused. The minutes for July 27, 2026, SNGMS board meeting were read and approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: There was a \$1700 decrease in the checking account. The investment account is unchanged. A check was stolen and cashed, but Wells Fargo refunded the money to SNGMS. A stop check fee was charged, and new checks were purchased at a total cost of \$70. The tax exemption status for SNGMS has been renewed and an exemption letter is expected within 60 days. Approximately \$100 was in credit card transaction fees since the SNGMS website switched to Zeffy as the credit card processor. Dave Ford suggested that SNGMS gem and mineral shows switch to Zeffy and commented that their reports are adequate and payments to SNGMS are prompt.

Unfinished Business: Awards Banquet: The ticket price for the Awards Banquet has not been established. Mike Yslas confirmed Rockhounding Nation will donate \$2000 to subsidize the banquet. Orville Wiemers moved to set the price at \$35 for members and \$65 for nonmembers. Dave Ford seconded. The motion passes. Ticket prices were set at \$35 for members and \$65 for nonmembers. Prices will not be printed on the tickets. No committee has been established to manage the silent auction at the banquet. In 2026, Amber Palecek, Sara Tredwell, and Barb Mazz managed the auction. There was a discussion about auction committee responsibilities; no one was tasked with follow-up. Ralph Voelker provided a price handout for volunteer acknowledgment pins. The lead time for pin delivery is six weeks. The cost per

pin decreases as the number of pins purchased increases. Orville Wiemers moved to buy 300 one-inch pins in 2-3 colors for \$857. Harvey Bergeron seconded, the motion passed.

Public Address System for General Meetings: At the August 2026 general meeting the new system was used for the first half of the meeting. For the second half, the new speaker was used with the old microphone and the sound quality dropped. Tim Ruzik has been working on the configuration of the new system to tune it. Tyra Tripp reported the new system was over budget by \$185. Orville Wiemers moved to add \$185 to the PA system budget, Ralph Voelker seconded, the motion passed.

Membership Software: Lorrilee Stackhouse reviewed the software development status. The software is not yet complete. Currently, a QR code on digital membership cards can be scanned to verify membership status, but a QR code scanner would be required for LEC usage at a cost of approximately \$200, including software. Dave Ford confirmed with the SNGMS insurance company that a digital signature is not required on liability forms, a checkbox is sufficient. Ralph Voelker stated that SNGMS's liability is reduced since Zeffy stores credit card information, not SNGMS. Claudia Crouse stated the biggest data breach risk is storing children's birth dates. Wendy Dresser stated Kids Club is not using birthdays; they just need to know if the kids are members. Determining membership on field trips has been problematic. Claudia Crouse offered to create a membership list that can be shared on the SNGMS google drive but stated that users must have a Gmail account to access the drive. Mary Savage will help Claudia Crouse transfer SNGMS membership data from Claudia's personal google drive to the SNGMS google drive. Wendy Dresser asked if kids names will appear on adult membership cards. Lorrilee Stackhouse said not at the present time. Tyra Tripp asked if kids could get their own cards.

Lorrilee asked if using a rolling membership date has been approved by the general membership and if membership purchases between now and the end of 2026 should end on December 31, 2026. Claudia Crouse endorsed setting a date to start use of rolling memberships and commented that the implementation date is critical. Current members need to renew before December 31, 2026. The general membership vote on bylaw changes to allow rolling memberships is slated for September 14, 2026. If rolling memberships are approved, any new memberships purchased after the approval will expire on December 31, 2027. Lorrilee Stackhouse confirmed the membership software can track early renewals and the correct expiration date. Lorrilee Stackhouse does not want to integrate volunteer expertise questionnaire into the membership forms because it will make them too long. She suggested including a survey in the welcome letter members receive.

Ralph Voelker commented that few people will complete the survey. Lisa Wiemers commented that the SNGMS standing rules need to match the bylaws regarding membership.

Equipment Retention Plan: Ralph Voelker did not know this would be an agenda item and is not able to discuss the plan at this meeting. He stated that a \$7000 donation is available for new equipment, but the donation must be matched. The donor will match up to \$7000, if a smaller amount is matched, then the donor will match that amount. There is a six-week lead time for the donor to make the funds available. Ralph suggested waiting until the October 2026 general meeting to discuss the donation since membership software discussion at the September 2026 may be lengthy. Ralph will bring pledge cards to the October 2026 meeting.

Lapidary and Education Center Cleanup: Ralph Voelker suggested delaying this effort until 2027 to obtain additional bids for painting, etc., and to allow additional planning. Tyra Tripp suggested visits to other gem clubs and mineral societies to see how their lapidaries are configured. Tyra Tripp asked if a committee should be formed, Ralph Voelker suggested Joel Coombs as the chair.

Change of Bylaws and Standing Rules: The general membership vote on bylaw and standing rules changes to allow rolling memberships is slated for September 14, 2026.

Lapidary and Education Center: Ginger Ruggiero consolidated the LEC handouts into one document. Mike Yslas expressed concern that LEC supervisors concentrate on their own work instead of supervising. Tyra Tripp commented that the rule is that if there are more than two members in the shop, the supervisor is not supposed to work on their own projects. Mike Yslas disagrees with this policy.

Safety Training Day: Wendy Dresser proposed a Safety Training Day on September 26, 2026, at the Ore Car mine. She would like eight assistants for the event, and she provided a course content proposal. Wendy requested that the SNGMS provide hamburgers and hot dogs for the event, with the understanding that members would bring side dishes. Mike Yslas expressed concern regarding liability for the first aid/CPR portions of the proposal. Wendy Dresser pointed out that all members sign a liability waiver form, and that information about how to find safety resources is being provided. Ralph Voelker added that SNGMS has liability insurance. Dave Ford moved to provide \$200 for food, Harvey Bergeron seconded, the motion passed.

Field Trips: Jonathan Tredwell stated he wants a co-chair for field trips, that he plans to run for the SNGMS Board of Directors in 2027, and that he will step down as the Field Trip chair. Jonathan reported that the Desert Dogs Lacrosse team decided not to sponsor a gem and mineral show before the game. They would like SNGMS to sell Desert Dog game tickets, with SNGMS receiving \$10/ticket. The game seats will be in the center of the space instead of on the side. Ralph Voelker asked who the new Field Trip chair should be. Jonathan responded he had asked Nate Albrecht who has not yet responded to the request. Orville Wiemers suggested that Jonathon make a request for a Field Trip chair at the September 2026 general meeting, and that an email blast be sent describing the chair's responsibilities.

Calendar: In the interest of time, two calendar items were deferred for discussion later. The need to create a nominating committee for SNGMS was discussed. The meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.

SNGMS General Meeting Minutes - September 14, 2026

The SNGMS General meeting began at 6:00 pm. The pledge of allegiance was recited. Timothy Ruzic explained how to use the new microphone and stated the audiovisual system is being tuned. New members were introduced and visitors were acknowledged. Members were asked to indicate if they had items for Show and Tell. A door prize drawing was held. The secretary read the August 3, 2026, General Meeting Minutes. The minutes were accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report: The checking account balance increased by \$251 and the investment account increased by \$64. David Ford is the Viva Las Vegas Rocks Gem and Mineral show treasurer and needs 4 additional volunteers to sell tickets and handle money. Each Viva shift is 4 hours long each day of the show.

Kids Club: Wendy Dresser thanked members for in-kind donations to the Kids Club and for help at the Kids Club events. She thanked Dave Ford for paying for the field trip to Eldorado Canyon including the bus, admission, and food. Upcoming events include a Rockhounding Safety Course for kids and adults on September 26, 2026, at the Ore Car Mine at 8 am. The event includes a BBQ. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided; members are asked to bring side dishes to share. Text Wendy Dresser to reserve your spot. The Kids Club will work on the Showmanship badge at the LEC on October 11, 2026, from 3 – 5 pm. There is a Halloween party at the Eagle's Lodge on October 17, 2026, from noon to 2 pm, including a costume contest. Email Thomas Boes (thomas.boes@sngms.net) to reserve your spot. There will be a Kids Club booth at the Viva Gem and Mineral show on November 6 -8, 2026.

Field Trips: Jonathan Tredwell reported there is a trip to the Blush Falls mine in Henderson, Nevada on September 19, 2026, at 7 am. The trip is free with a 2-gallon collection limit and a 25-person maximum. Email fieldtrip@sngms.net to

reserve your spot. On September 29, 2026, there is a pay to dig trip to Milford, Utah for fire opal. The cost is \$200 per person. Contact fieldtrip@sngms.net for details. On October 3, 2026, Joel Coombs will lead a field trip to Holt Canyon, Utah for agate. Meet in Enterprise, Utah at 9 am. On October 7 -8, 2026 a trip to Brenda, Arizona is planned. Email fieldtrip@sngms.net to reserve your spot. Bruce Martin will lead trips to the Pilot Mountain mine, and the Broken Arrow mine on October 11 and 12, 2026, respectively, for turquoise and variscite. The cost is \$100/person. Both mines are near Tonopah, Nevada. Contact 725-400-1472 or brucemartinlv@yahoo.com to reserve your spot. An October 2026 trip to the Cactus Joe Mine near Goodsprings, Nevada is being planned. There will be a coffee truck and a costume contest. A Desert Dogs Lacrosse team fundraiser is scheduled for December 5, 2026. SNGMS will have an information table. Jonathan Tredwell is stepping down as the field trip coordinator in 2027, and a volunteer replacement is needed. Contact fieldtrip@sngms.net or president@sngms.net to volunteer.

Lapidary and Education Center Report: Mike Yslas emphasized the importance of cleaning equipment and using it correctly. Amber Palecek is stepping down from maintaining the calendar on the whiteboard at the LEC and Mike Yslas will take on that role. Beth Jones is the official LEC supervisor trainer.

Speaker: Multiple SNGMS volunteers spoke about open volunteer positions. John Anderson from the Gold Searchers is the November 2026 speaker. The speaker list for the Viva Las Vegas Rocks Gem & Mineral show has been finalized. Thanks to Jenelle and Steve Hopkins for providing gifts to the speakers.

Birthdays: Happy Birthday was sung.

Ore Car Mining Claim: Peggy Sue Moore stated the Ore Car mining claim was successfully renewed.

Sunshine Report: Wayne Muth's broken arm is better, but his hips and back are painful. Bill Kogan is hospitalized in Las Vegas. Chops Wenzl is ill. Mike Kirk is feeling better. Candy Munkres has an ear problem.

Membership: Claudia Crouse reported there are 678 adult members and 150 kid members.

Cabochon Contest: First place winner was George Stewart with entry No. 5, and second place was Joel Coombs with entry No. 6.

Bylaws and Standing Rules Revision: Peggy Sue Moore moved to change the bylaws to a rolling membership schedule, Wendy Dresser seconded. Joel Coombs moved to change the standing rules to a rolling membership schedule, Wendy Dresser seconded. Both motions passed.

Awards Banquet: Tyra Tripp stated tickets will cost \$35 for members and \$65 for non-members. Tickets go on sale October 1, 2026.

New Business

2026 SNGMS Elections: Sara Tredwell was nominated as chair of the Nominating Committee. Andrea Packo agreed to serve on the committee.

Super Saturday Event: The Clark County School District is hosting Super Saturday Discovery in the Park on October 17, 2026, at Lorenzi Park (the same day as the SNGMS Kids Club Halloween party). Tyra Tripp asked for volunteers to participate in the event.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

SNGMS Rock Stars Kids Club – 2026 Field Trips and Meetings*

Field Trip/Meeting	Date	Location
Kids Club Meeting, 3 pm - 5 pm	Oct 11, 2026	SNGMS Lapidary & Education Center**
Kids Club Meeting, 3 pm - 5 pm	Nov 8, 2026	SNGMS Lapidary & Education Center**
	Dec no meeting, Awards Banquet	

* Field trip destinations, dates, and times are subject to change.

** SNGMS Lapidary & Education Ctr. 3111 South Valley View Blvd, Bldg. E Ste 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102

2026 Class Schedule

Class	Instructor	Date and time	Cost	Location	Contact
Silver Smithing	Bud Cranor, Aja Nicholson	Mon. Sept 21, 6:30 - 9:30 pm	\$35	SNGMS Lapidary & Ed. Cntr ¹	MUST text 702-526-8003 for reservation
Faceting	Tom Kidwell	Saturdays, 9 am - 1 pm	\$15.00 for the class + \$5.00 for instructor fuel	SNGMS Lapidary & Ed. Cntr ¹	moorepeggy@me.com for reservations - must commit to 3 consecutive classes
Cabochon Making	Joel	Wed. Sept 16, 6:00 – 7:00 pm Wed. Sept 30, 6:00 – 7:00 pm	\$6	SNGMS Lapidary & Ed. Cntr ¹	Text to attend 702-234-1521

3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg. E, Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102 - **SNGMS class fees include modest donation to the SNGMS.**

2026 Field Trips* & Events

Field Trip ¹ /Event	Date	Location
Amethyst	Cancelled – new date TBD	Purple Blessings Mine, CA
Blush Falls Mine	September 19 th	Henderson, NV 2-gallon limit - Free
Fire Opal	September 29 th	Milford, UT - \$200 per person
Agate	October 3 rd	Holt, Utah
Brenda Jasper	October 7 th & 8 th	Brenda, Arizona
Tonopah Turquoise and Variscite Dig	October 11 th and 12 th	Tonopah, NV Broken Arrow and Pilot Mtn \$100 per person, per mine brucemartinlv@yahoo.com to reserve spot
Cactus Joes	October TBD	TBD
Viva Las Vegas Rocks! Gem & Mineral Show	November 6 - 8, 2026	Santa Fe Station Casino, Las Vegas, NV
Awards Banquet	December 6, 6 pm - 10 pm	Las Vegas National Golf Club, 1911 Desert Inn Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89169

*Field trip destinations, dates, and times are subject to change. Contact Jonathan Tredwell 725-377-0166

RSVP for field trips to Jonathan at fieldtrip@sngms.net or 725-377-0166.

VOLUNTEER FIELDTRIP COORDINATORS NEEDED!



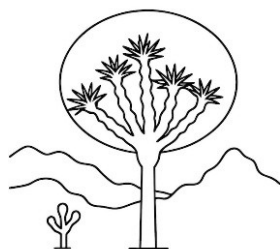
If you have a September birthday, please bring something for the refreshment table at September meeting.

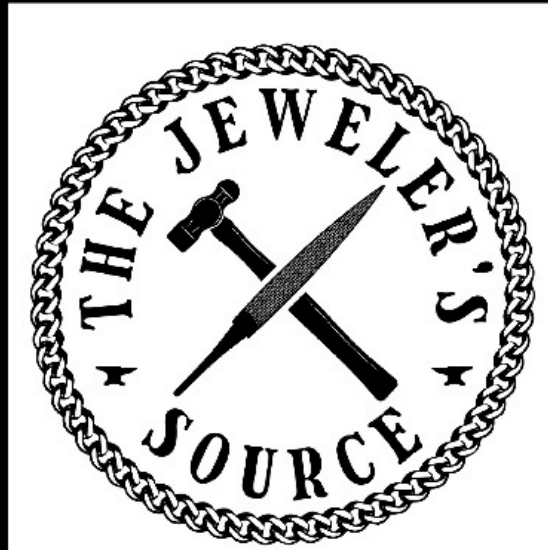
SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS – HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Mick Sprott, Alex Balu, Alexandra Hassoldt, Barbara Wysocki, Barry Lawson, Briana Furukawa, Clae Corrales, Darlene Bourland, Daron Johnson, Debbie Boyce, Francisco Lucero, Gwen Metcalf, Harvey Bergeron, Hayes Griffith, Jade Payton, Jenelle Hopkins, Jennifer Warzlow, Jerry Hughes, Jesse Lisle, Judith Ross, Kathryn Ando, Lori Goldsmith, Marley Finley, Reese Keeley, Michael Hornholtz, Michael Paladino, Mike Baner, Pamela Leimbach, Regina Kim, Richard Katz, Rimma Muth, Sandra Stewart, Sara Tredwell, Scott Underwood, Shadi Petosky, Sharon Webb, Sonya Foster, Sophia Munson, Sue LoFaro, T.J. Kerner, Terry Dehn, Tracy Naffa, Tyra Tripp, Valerie Smoot, Winston Winterbourne, Xurong Liu

Blush Falls Mine Fieldtrip

SNGMS had a fantastic day at the Blush Falls Mine in August thanks to the hospitality of Jonathan, Sara and Michael from Rockhounding Nation! They opened their active claim to club members and welcomed everyone at the Mine sign. Everything was kept safe, clean and extremely family friendly. We certainly appreciate the access, excellent ground and warm hospitality. Some amazing specimens were found. We can't wait to go back! Thanks again to Rockhounding Nation!





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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

And welcome back to members that rejoined SNGMS. We look forward to getting to know you!

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_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 once a month as noted below and are highly encouraged for you to attend.



If you know of any SNGMS member with an event to celebrate (wedding, anniversary, etc.) or who needs a bit of sunshine due to accident, illness, etc., please text Beth Jones at 702-505-5819.

SNGMS MISSION STATEMENT

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.

SHOP SUPERVISORS NEEDED!

***Looking for better Shop hours? Looking for free work time at the Shop?
Volunteer shop supervisors are needed!***

No supervisor = The shop is closed

It's an excellent opportunity to pick up free shop hours for your use and for you to meet fellow SNGMS members!

Contact Mike Yslas at info@rockhoundingnation.com or
562-242-4189

Flexible schedules! Floaters are needed to cover on occasion.



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DATES.**

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✉ INFO@ROCKHOUDINGNATION.COM

SNGMS Meeting and Lapidary & Education Center Hours and Location

SNGMS 2026 Meeting Schedule		
Board Meeting ¹	General Meeting ²	Kids Club Meeting ¹
September 28, 2026	October 5, 2026	October 11, 2026
October 26, 2026	November 2, 2026	November 8, 2026
November 23, 2026		
No Meeting - Awards Banquet	No Meeting - Awards Banquet	No Meeting - Awards Banquet
	January 4, 2027	January 10, 2027
January 25, 2027	February 1, 2027	No Meeting
February 22, 2027	March 1, 2027	March 14, 2027
March 29, 2027	April 5, 2027	April 11, 2027
April 26, 2027	May 3, 2027	No Meeting
May 24, 2027	June 7, 2027	June 13, 2027
June 28, 2027	July 12, 2027	July 11, 2027
July 26, 2027	August 2, 2026, 2027	August 8, 2027
August 30, 2027	September 13, 2027	September 12, 2027
September 27, 2027	October 4, 2027	October 10, 2027
October 25, 2027	November 1, 2027	November 14, 2027

1) Meets at SNGMS Lapidary and Education Center except field trips and special events
 2) Meets at Eagles' Lodge on the 1st Monday of the month, unless there's a holiday, open to the public
 Show & Sell 5-6 pm, meeting 6-8 pm

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 Closed for general use: Various Classes

Monday Closed for general use: Various Classes

Tuesday 10 am - 3 pm

Wednesday 10 am – 7 pm

Thursday 12 pm - 9 pm

Friday 12 pm - 9 pm

Saturday 1 pm - 7 pm

EQUIPMENT FEES:

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

KIDS CLUB:

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

***Check Email for possible date changes.**

SNGMS Lapidary & Education Center
3111 South Valley View Blvd, Building E, Ste 125
Las Vegas, NV 89102



Monthly Meetings are held at:
Eagles Lodge #1213,
1601 E. Washington Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89101

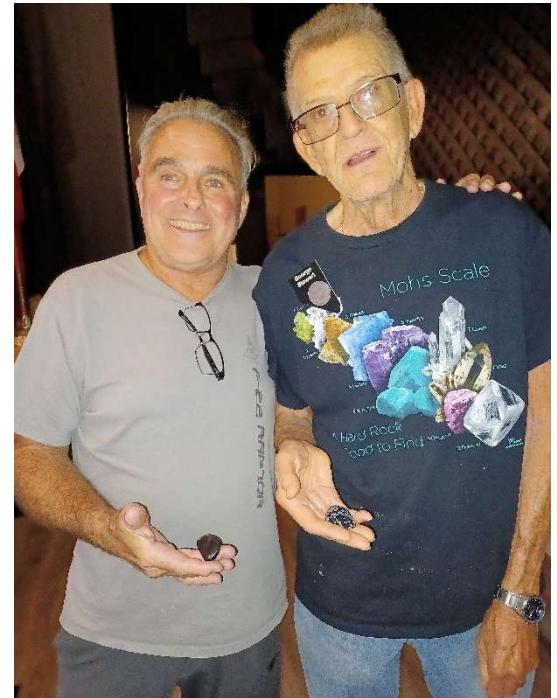


2026 Cabochon Contests

The SNGMS hosts a cabochon contest at our monthly meetings. A cabochon is a jewelry-ready stone with a visible dome on the front face and a flat backside. Meeting attendees vote on their favorite cab. The first-place award is 2 hours of free shop time, and the second-place winner is 1-hour of free shop time. The 2026 SNGMS Cabochon Contest schedule is shown below. **Good Luck!**

2026 SNGMS Cabochon Contest Themes

Month	Nevada Only or Certain Size/Shape	Winners
January	Nevada collected - Fluorite	1 st - Lloyd Chayette 2 nd - Ralph Voelker
February	Small size – length/width 5 mm or smaller	1 st - Evan Plumleigh 2 nd - Patty Johnson
March	Nevada collected - Wonderstone	1 st - Evan Plumleigh 2 nd - Lloyd Chayette
April	Nevada collected - Turquoise/variscite	1 st - Evan Plumleigh 2 nd - Lloyd Chayette
May	Medium size – length/width 30 mm maximum	1 st - Bruce Martin 2 nd - Barb Maz
June	Nevada collected - Jasper or Agate	1 st – Lloyd Chayette 2 nd – Ralph Voelker
July	Nevada collected - Petrified Wood	1 st – George Stewart 2 nd – Jonathan Tredwell
August	Asymmetrical, Free Form or Shaped (heart, cross, teardrop, star, crescent, etc.)	1 st – Joel Cooms 2 nd – George Stewart
September	Nevada collected – Obsidian (any color)	1 st – George Stewart 2 nd – Joel Cooms
October	Large size – length/width more than 30 mm	
November	Nevada collected - Rhyolite	
December	No Contest	



SNGMS 2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICE	DIRECTOR	EMAIL	PHONE
President	Tyra Tripp	president@sngms.net	702-493-2503
Vice-President	Ron Mazz	vicepresident@sngms.net	586-914-4130
Secretary	Mary Savage	secretary@sngms.net	
Treasurer	Dave Ford	treasurer@sngms.net	831-521-0214
Parliamentarian	Michael Kirk	parliamentarian@sngms.net	702-433-4146
Past President	Orville Wiemers	pastpresident@sngms.net	702-743-3277
Three-Year Board	Ralph Voelker	boardmember3@sngms.net	
Two-Year Board	Harvey Bergeron	boardmember2@sngms.net	
One-Year Board	Jean Chayette	boardmember1@sngms.net	

SNGMS 2026 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

COMMITTEE	CHAIR	EMAIL	PHONE
AV Wrangler	Timothy Ruzic		
Communication	Del Walkenshaw	sngmsnews@gmail.com	702-451-8040
Field Trip	Jonathan Tredwell	fieldtrip@sngms.net	725-377-0166
Fundraising	OPEN		
Google Manager	Thomas Boes	googlemanager@sngms.net	
Historian	Lisa Wiemers	historian@sngms.net	
Inventory	Ron Mazz	vicepresident@sngms.net	586-914-4130
Kids Club	Thomas Boes	thomas.boes@sngms.net	
Lapidary Manager	Mike Yslas	info@rockhoundingnation.com	562-242-4189
Media Committee	Kendra White	kendrarubywhite@gmail.com	
Meeting Greeter/Hospitality	Sandy Gonzales		
Membership	Claudia Crouse	membership@sngms.net	
Newsletter	Ginger Ruggiero	newsletter@sngms.net	
New Member Liaison	Amber Palecek		702-343-7150
Program (Speakers)	Romy Umholtz	romyvision@gmail.com	
Publicity	Sandy Gonzalez		
Raffle/Door Prizes	Barry and DiAnn Lawson	diannmariehayes@yahoo.com	702-577-7183
Refreshments	Richard and Elizabeth Nelson	richard_nelso89@hotmail.com	
Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies	Mary Beth Paladino		
Scholarship	Thomas Boes	thomas.boes@sngms.net	
Spring Jamboree Show	Orville Wiemers	sngmsjamboreeshowchair@gmail.com	702-743-3277
Sunshine	Beth Jones	punkyjones@hotmail.com	702-505-5819
Viva Las Vegas Rocks Show	Andrea Packo	showchairviva@sngms.net	702-279-7679
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Paid Advertisement

Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society
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This advertisement features a collage of various gemstones and minerals, including agate, malachite, and other polished stones. The text "SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY" is at the top right, followed by "ROCKS, GEMS & JEWELRY SHOW" in large, bold, dark letters. To the right is the society's circular logo. Below the gemstone collage is the "SANTA FE STATION HOTEL • CASINO" logo. The dates "November 6th, 7th, & 8th 2026" are prominently displayed. The word "ROCKS" is written in very large, bold, green letters. At the bottom, a dark brown banner contains the text "VENDORS, DISPLAYS, DOOR PRIZES AND MORE!" in white.

SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
**ROCKS, GEMS
& JEWELRY SHOW**

**VIVA LAS VEGAS
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**November
6th, 7th, & 8th
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