



THE POLISHED SLAB

SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY



July 2026

A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUNDS SINCE 1940

VOLUME 86 ISSUE 7

UPCOMING MEETINGS

SNGMS Board Meeting July 27, 2026
SNGMS General Meeting Aug 3, 2026
SNGMS Kids Club Meeting Aug 9, 2026

URGENT!

SOCIAL MEDIA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you have experience with engaging an audience on social media?

SNGMS is looking for a volunteer or two with experience to assist with our Instagram and Face Book accounts.

Please reach out to Mike Yslas, shop Foreman at 562-242-4189



Everyone loves a good fieldtrip, right?

Jonathan Tredwell, chairperson of our fieldtrip committee, would welcome the opportunity to have a few volunteer field trip managers assist him with the planning and leading of field trips.

Please reach out to Jonathan if you are interested in helping with field trip planning and management.

fieldtrip@sngms.net or 725-377-0166

SHOP SUPERVISORS NEEDED!

To offer convenient shop hours for your use, volunteer shop supervisors are needed!

No supervisor = The shop is closed

It's an excellent opportunity to rack 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 including floaters to cover when needed

A note from Ginger

Hi there!

I'm Ginger Ruggiero. I'm happy to be editor of the SNGMS monthly newsletter and thank you for your trust. I'm originally a Northern New Yorker and lived in the Adirondack Mountains, less than 2 hours from the Canada border in a town of 2,000 people. I relocated to the beautiful desert a over a year ago and am NOT missing the 7' of snow or the -25* Winter temperatures. A recent retiree from a 40-year career in banking, my experience is comprised of management, business development, marketing, and commercial and retail banking. Finding SNGMS has been an excellent way to connect with likeminded rock "hoarders" and my love for exploring the outdoors.

Having many years of marketing and business development experience, it's important to me that you find value in the Slab newsletter. With so much information available online, a newsletter is a commitment of time and energy and must provide true value to readers to stay relevant. I welcome articles and features that you think members would enjoy, find informative, and relevant. Feel free to email me at newsletter@sngms.net. Value is important. There is no use in producing a newsletter that is of no value. Any and all ideas are welcome.

Feedback is so important! Listening and really hearing input from others gives us the opportunity to gain a different perspective and open our minds to new ideas for improvements and innovation. I look forward to hearing from you and meeting you soon!

-Ginger

President's Message Tyra Tripp

Thank you to Ralph and Jill Voelker for hosting a table at the Centennial Hills Active Adult Center 4th of July celebration in July. They had an amazing display and provided so much valuable information to everyone who stopped by.

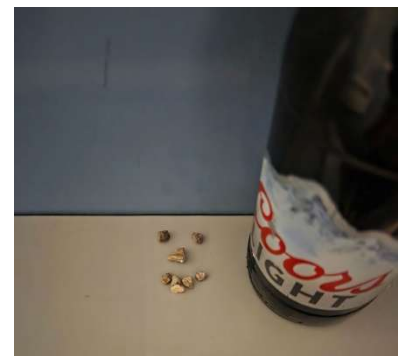
Deb Bucknam filled in as secretary at the board meeting when Mary Savage wasn't able to attend. Thank you, Deb.

Speaking of the board meeting, we had quite a turnout with lots of ideas and insight. If you emailed me individually, I included your input. Keep it coming. I love to hear from everyone.



The board is continuing to drag our club into the 21st century. The new security system has been selected and installed. Thank you to Sara Treadwell for helping me find a plan. It has not been an easy process. Sara was a great help. Please be sure to have your membership card handy when you visit the shop just in case you are asked for proof of membership. I doubt any of our supervisors recognize every member of the club. Next on our journey into the 21st century is computerized membership and payment.

One of our members found this cute display during the break at our club meeting on July 6. Thanks for sharing, Sandy, and thanks to whoever created the display.



News FLASH!

A new security system and cameras have been installed at the Shop. This change ensures security for members and assists with liability insurance protection.

A Zoom live feed will be added to the monthly membership meeting. If you can't attend in person, it's the perfect opportunity to stay up to date on the Club happenings! An email meeting link will be sent the day prior to the scheduled meeting. Please make sure your email is up to date to receive this information.

2026 Field Trips* & Events

Field Trip ¹ /Event	Date	Location
Brenda Jasper	August TBA	Brenda, AZ
Blush Falls quartz and pastelite	September TBA	Henderson, NV
Amethyst	October TBA	Purple Blessings Mine, CA
Jasper and Agate	October TBA	Cactus Joe Mine, Blue Diamond, NV
Viva Las Vegas Rocks! Gem & Mineral Show	Nov. 6 - 8, 2026	Santa Fe Station Casino, Las Vegas, NV
Awards Banquet	Dec 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 (fieldtrip@snqms.net)

Wildfire Bubble Opal Field Trip – June 2026

The field trip in June to gather Wildfire Bubble Opal was a huge success and many excellent specimens were gathered.

SNGMS Board Meeting Minutes for June 29, 2026

Minutes by Debbie Bucknam, Secretary Pro Tem

On June 29, 2026, the regular Board of Directors meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 4:00 PM by the President. All board members except for the Secretary (excused absence) were present. The pledge of allegiance was recited. Debbie Bucknam was appointed as Secretary Pro Tem by the President. The minutes of the previous board meeting were approved as read.

- Treasurer's Report: Account balances were reported.
- Lapidary and Education Center (LEC) Report: Two trim saws and the water saw are down due to bent blades. The large flat lap is leaking.
- Unfinished Business: Board members were reminded to use sngms.net email addresses. Thomas Boes was present to help those who needed it to get started. Ralph Voelker will be managing the SNGMS table at the upcoming Centennial Hills Adult Center event.
- Security Cameras: Brinks were unable to provide cameras. Vivint charges \$1200 for a deluxe package with a middle range system being \$800. The fee would be \$50 a month to monitor.
- Membership: A program will be discussed at the August 2026 SNGMS board meeting.
- Show Reports: No report on the Viva Las Vegas Show was given. Boulder City is refinishing the gym floor, where the location of the Spring Jamboree show is held and nothing is known at this time about how it will affect the show. At the 2026 Spring Jamboree, the Kids Club made \$1247, the geode saw made \$384, the silent auction made \$1286, the SNGMS booth made \$143, and door prize tickets made \$360. The net profit was \$10,093.
- Lifetime Memberships: Lisa Wiemers nominated Bob and Barbara Belcher for lifetime membership. Dave Ford seconded, and the motion passed.
- Ore Car Mine: Lisa Wiemers proposed that a map to the Ore Car Mine be put out in an email blast and on the website. The proposal was accepted.
- Volunteers: How to recruit more volunteers was discussed. Possible ideas include creating a chart of positions and descriptions of what those positions entail. Also highlighting a member every month as that month's volunteer of the month. Possible levels of recognition based on hours. Ralph Voelker moved that pins are ordered with a year number such as 1, 2 etc. on them for the year end banquet. Jean Chayette seconded. The motion passed. Ron Maz will start tracking 2026 volunteer hours.

- LEC Issues: Cleanliness of the LEC needs to be addressed. Usage of equipment and how to implement a program for training etc. on equipment was discussed. The idea of certifying members on equipment use was discussed. A verbal vote was taken with the majority of the board saying yes if there is a plan in place on how to continue going forward. Also, there is a need for two shop supervisors at a time instead of just one.



Sunshine Report

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. See the General meeting minutes noted below for the Sunshine Report.

SNGMS General Meeting Minutes for July 6, 2026

The SNGMS General meeting began at 6:02 pm. The pledge of allegiance was recited. New members were introduced. Members were asked to indicate if they had items for Show and Tell. A door prize drawing was held. Michael Kirk donated the prizes of fossil shark teeth. The secretary read the May 4, 2026, General Meeting Minutes. The minutes were accepted as read.

- Treasurer's Report: Dave Ford reported \$5000 was moved from the checking account to the investment account. Mike Yslas sold \$1350 of used equipment in June 2026. A one-year certificate of deposit has matured and was renewed for another year. There was a \$15,800 increase in SNGMS in the first half of 2026 compared to \$7000 in the first half of 2025.
- Kids Club: Thomas Boes thanked Kids Club volunteers. There is a Kids Club field trip to the Children's Discovery Museum on July 11, 2026, from 10 am to noon. There will not be a regular meeting for July 2026. The volunteer shifts for the Kids Club at the Viva Las Vegas Rocks show will be two hours long and volunteers are needed.
- Lapidary and Education Center (LEC) Report: Mike Yslas reported all equipment is working. He emphasized the importance of cleaning equipment when members are finished using it, and he emphasized the importance of members using the equipment correctly.
- Field Trips: Jonathan Tredwell reported field trips for the remainder of 2026 are being planned. He discussed a request from the Desert Dogs Lacrosse team to continue collaborating with SNGMS on events, including an event that includes an autograph session with Desert Dog players. A gem and mineral show in conjunction with a game is also being discussed.
- Gem and Mineral Shows: Tyra Tripp stated there will be a rock and bottle show in Tonopah, Nevada from July 17 – 18, 2026. Some SNGMS members will be vendors at the show. Ruby's Inn in Bryce Canyon City, Utah is hosting the Bryce Canyon Rock and Gem Show from July 16 19, 2026.
- Speakers: Romy Umholtz reported Peter Welty will speak about faceting at the August 2026 SNGMS general meeting. She introduced Orville Wiemers who gave a presentation entitled "Treasures Unearthed, Raw Beauty: A visit to the Las Angeles Natural History Museum." Orville offered a gift to each child at the meeting. Orville also proposed a day trip for SNGMS members to the museum. There is a \$18 admission fee to the museum, and the cost per member including a bus is probably in the \$60 - \$70 range. The time at the museum would be about four hours. He provided a sign-up sheet for interested members.
- Cabochon Contest: George Stewart took first place with entry number 6, and Jonathan Tredwell took second place with entry 9.

- **Sunshine Report:** Beth Jones reported that Kendra and Shane White are expecting a child in November 2026. Beth Jones is recovering from a pinched nerve. Wayne Muth is recovering from a broken arm and shoulder. Mike Kirk cut his head and had stitches, additionally he is scheduled for back surgery. Andrea Packo is recovering from an appendectomy. Wendy Dresser's family is feeling better and one of her sons has been married.
- **Membership Report:** Amber Palecek reported two new members joined SNGMS at tonight's meeting.
- **Federation Report:** Mary Beth Paladino reported she and Ron Maz will represent SNGMS at the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma this month. She thanked Jenelle Hopkins for making ribbons for the meeting. No major votes are expected at the meeting.

Old Business:

- **Centennial Hills Active Adult Center:** Tyra Tripp thanked Jill and Ralph Voelker for staffing a SNGMS information table at the Centennial Hills Active Adult Center.
- **LEC Security Cameras:** Tyra Tripp reported cameras will be installed on July 8, 2026, and reminded members to bring their membership card to the LEC to verify their membership status.
- **Spring Jamboree Report:** Orville Wiemers reported SNGMS earned \$9842.78 from the 2026 Boulder City Spring Jamboree. Additionally, Nancy Eash donated \$1000, and there were some other cash donations, bringing the total income to \$10,931.

New Business

- Lisa Wiemers nominated Barb and Bob Belcher for lifetime membership and reviewed their qualifications. Amber Palecek seconded the nomination and the motion carried.
- **LEC:** A LEC cleanup will be scheduled for early September.
- **Streaming SNGMS General Meetings:** Mike Yslas discussed streaming of SNGMS general meetings for members who are unable to attend using Facebook or Zoom.
- **2027 Spring Jamboree Show:** Orville Wiemers reported that Boulder City is resurfacing the gym floor where the SNGMS gem and mineral show is held. Use of tape to secure electrical cables to the floor will no longer be allowed. Boulder City is considering purchasing a membrane to protect the floor, but there is no budget to cover the cost. The complexity and time required for setup will increase if a membrane is used, and more volunteers will be required. SNGMS will sign up to participate in the Jamboree and will notify vendors that power may not be available. Vendors will be allowed to cancel their booth reservations if power is not available. Reconfiguring the booth layout to use wall plugs was discussed.
- **2026 Viva Las Vegas Rocks Show:** Andrea Packo reported out of the 62 booths available, 75% have been sold, and most booth fees have been paid. Fourteen booths are still available. A deposit of \$11,000 has been paid to Santa Fe Station Casino for the show. Andrea offered members copies of the booth layout. A total of 100 items are needed for the silent auction. Items can be given to Andrea Packo (aspacko@gmail.com) or Karen Griffith-Hedberg (kgriffithhedberg@yahoo.com). Advertising materials are available from Andrea Packo for you to distribute/display. The next Viva planning meeting is on Saturday, July 25, 2026, at Desert Arts Supply in Henderson Nevada at 1 pm. There is an urgent need to fill the volunteer position of advertising manager with an emphasis on online ads. Show tickets will be sold via Eventbrite. Ron Mazz added that there are other open volunteer positions that need to be filled for the Viva show.
- **Meeting Cleanup:** Tyra Tripp asked members to help move tables and chairs into storage after general meetings.
- **Gem and Mineral Sale:** Peggy Sue Moore announced that longtime SNGMS member Bill Kogan is selling his collection of gems, minerals, and fossils. Contact Peggy Sue (moorepeggysue@gmail.com) for information on how to travel to Lund, Nevada to make purchases.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

How Wood Forgot to Rot

<https://geology.com/stories/13/petrified-wood> <https://georarities.com/2025/04/03/about-petrified-wood>

Petrified wood is a fossil. It forms when sediment or volcanic ash buries plants and protects them from decay caused by oxygen and insects. Then, groundwater flows through the sediment or ash, replacing the wood with silica or other inorganic material like opal. This process forms fossils that can be remarkably well preserved, showing details of bark, growth rings, and cell structures. Trace amounts of iron, manganese and other minerals give petrified wood a variety of amazing colors.

Petrified wood is not rare. It is found worldwide, including Clark County, Nevada. The Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona is one of the most famous petrified wood sites on earth.

Native Americans have origin stories for petrified wood. The Paiute legend describes logs, in what is now Petrified Forest National Park, as remnants of arrow shafts and spears used by the Thunder God during a battle. For the Navajo, the legend is that petrified wood is the bones of Yeitso, a giant monster.

In China, petrified wood is used in feng shui practices. Additionally, petrified wood is associated with wealth and good fortune. Polished pieces are displayed as decorative items or carved into sculptures that symbolize prosperity. Collectors prize large specimens for their beauty and as good luck charms.

Petrified wood is often used in lapidary work. It is made into jewelry, bookends, tabletops, and clock faces. It can also be tumbled. Not all petrified wood is suitable for lapidary work. Specimens with lots of voids or fractures do not polish well and tend to break while being worked. Petrified wood can be stabilized.

Collecting petrified wood can be done on private property where permission has been given by the landowner or on specific public lands where it can be collected for personal use. People have gone to jail for collecting petrified wood on land where removing it is a criminal act, so be sure you know the rules for each collection site.



Petrified Wood from Clark County, NV
www.facebook.com/groups/335250029597729

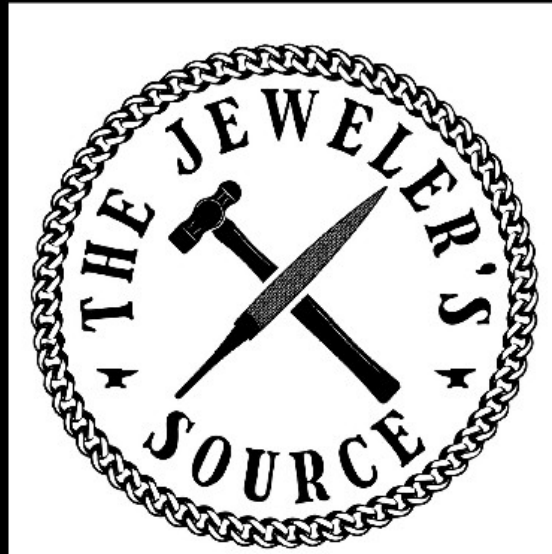


BIRTHDAYS

If you have a JULY birthday, please bring something for the refreshment table at July's meeting.

JULY BIRTHDAYS – HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Loren Anderson, Stella C. Andrecheck, Sebastian Aviles, Izear Baltazar, Joe Boisvenu, Mark Brazzeal, Julie Cooley, Kelly Dalton, Melanie Drinkwater, Melissa Esneault, Susan Freeman, Larry Glines, Wayne Herr, Michelle Hood, Adam Keller, Will Kohl, Cassandra Long, Guy Marshall, Caroline McCaw, Jose McCurry, Tawni McGuire, Dominic Mersino, Kyle Mills, Nelson Muniz, Amanda Munson, Edward Troy Munson, Richard Nell, Bernadette Paladino, Lucy Pankhurst, Ron Raduenz, Gavin Schulz, Sandy Spotofora, Heather Stinnett, Gerson Ventura Jaimes, Ralph Voelker, Sandra Wade, Keegan Walsh, Kim Wenzl, Sean White, Tracey White, Orville Wiemers, Winky Wu, Alice Yuan, Lois A. Zabrosky, Will Zamora, Stephanie Zamora



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thejewelerssource@gmail.com

IG - thejewelerssource

Meeting Schedules and SNGMS Lapidary & Education Center Hours

SNGMS 2026 Meeting Schedule		
Board Meeting ¹	General Meeting ²	Kids Club Meeting ¹
Jul 27, 2026	Aug 3, 2026	Aug 9, 2026
Aug 31, 2026	Sep 14, 2026	Sep 13, 2026
Sep 28, 2026	Oct 5, 2026	Oct 11, 2026
Oct 26, 2026	Nov 2, 2026	Nov 8, 2026
Nov. 23, 2026		
Dec no meeting, Awards Banquet	Dec no meeting, Awards Banquet	Dec no meeting, Awards Banquet

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

SNGMS LAPIDARY AND EDUCATION CENTER HOURS*

Sunday Closed for general use: Various Classes

Monday Closed for general use: Various Classes

Tuesday 10 am - 7 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, so you only pay for the time the equipment is running.

CENTER CLOSED:

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

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

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.

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



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



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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.)	
September	Nevada collected – Obsidian (any color)	
October	Large size – length/width more than 30 mm	
November	Nevada collected - Rhyolite	
December	No Contest	



Ancient Egyptians used Graphite as eyeliner - something commonly used in pencil lead today



Salt was once used as currency – the word “salary” comes from the Latin word for salt, salarium, as Roman soldiers were sometimes paid in salt



Peridot, one of the few crystals that form the Earth’s mantle, has been found in meteorites

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Welcome to members who recently/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_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 once a month as noted below and are highly encouraged for you to attend.

Speakers For 2026 General Meetings		
Date	Speaker	Topic
08/03/26	Peter Welty	Engineering – The Art of Faceting
09/14/26	Wendy Dresser	Volunteer Opportunities
10/5/2026	John Anderson	Gold Searchers of Nevada

SNGMS Rock Stars Kids Club – 2026 Field Trips and Meetings*		
Field Trip/Meeting	Date	Location
Kids Club Meeting, 3 pm - 5 pm	Aug 9, 2026	SNGMS Lapidary & Education Center**
Kids Club Meeting, 3 pm - 5 pm	Sep 13, 2026	SNGMS Lapidary & Education Center**
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

SNGMS 2026 VOLUNTEER STAFF

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

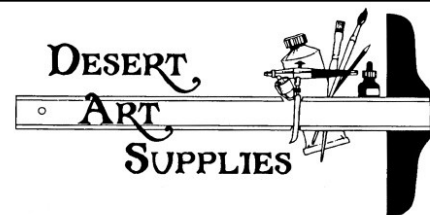
SNGMS 2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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	714-474-6384

SNGMS 2026 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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	Sara Bachmura		
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	OPEN		
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
Webmaster	Lorilee Stackhouse	webmaster@sngms.net	702-817-5602

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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.





SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

**ROCKS, GEMS
& JEWELRY SHOW**





**November
6th, 7th, & 8th
2026**

VIVA LAS VEGAS

ROCKS

VENDORS, DISPLAYS, DOOR PRIZES AND MORE!

2026 Class Schedule

(see page 11 for New Member Orientation Schedule)

Class	Instructor	Date and Time	Cost	Location	Contact
Silver Smithing	Bud Cranor, Aja Nicholson	Mon. July 13, 6:30 - 9:30 pm Mon. July 27, 6:30 - 9:30 pm Mon. Aug 10, 6:30 - 9:30 pm Mon. Aug 24, 6:30 - 9:30 pm	\$35	SNGMS Lapidary & Ed. Cntr ¹	MUST text 702-526-8003 for reservation
Copper Bracelet Making Class	Mary Savage	Sun. July 26, 3:00 – 6:00 pm	\$20, students bring nylon wedge hammer	SNGMS Lapidary & Ed. Cntr ¹	Make reservation by emailing secretary@sngms.net
Faceting	Tom Kidwell	Saturdays, 9 am - 1 pm	\$15.00 for the class + \$5.00 for instructor fuel	SNGMS Lapidary & Ed. Cntr ¹	moorepeggy@sue@gmail.com for reservations - must commit to 3 consecutive classes
Cabochon Making	Beth Jones	CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE	\$10	SNGMS Lapidary & Ed. Cntr ¹	SORRY FOR THE INCONVENIENCE
Cabochon Making II	Joel	Wed. July 15, 6:00 – 7:00 pm Wed. July 29, 6:00 – 7:00 pm Wed. Aug 12, 6:00 – 7:00 pm Wed. Aug 19, 6:00 – 7:00 pm	\$6	SNGMS Lapidary & Ed. Cntr ¹	Text to attend 702-234-1521
Intro to BLM Mining Claims	Mike Yslas	Wed. July 22, 6:00 – 7:00 pm	Free	SNGMS Lapidary & Ed. Cntr ¹	info@rockhoundingnation.com

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

Beginning Silver Smithing Classes

Fridays 9:30 am - 12:15 pm

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



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

RUBY'S INN INAUGURAL ROCK & GEM SHOW

JULY 16-19, 2026



BE PART OF SOMETHING
 NEW AND EXCITING AT
 RUBY'S INN'S **FIRST-EVER**
 ROCK & GEM SHOW!

Set at Ruby's Inn, the Gateway to Bryce Canyon National Park, this one-of-a-kind show is perfect for families, collectors, and curious explorers alike. Discover natural treasures, meet knowledgeable experts, and enjoy a fun, engaging experience in one of Southern Utah's most iconic destinations

More information to come:
rubysinn.com

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.

The Polished Slab Annual Advertising Rates

<u>Ad Size</u>	<u>6 Month Rate</u>	<u>12 Month Rate</u>
Business Card	\$18	\$30
Quarter Page	\$48	\$90
Half Page	\$90	\$170
Full Page	\$150	\$275



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**

Our annual awards dinner is held in December – no monthly membership meeting is held.

SNGMS Contact Information

Web Site: www.sngms.net
newsletter@sngms.net
sngmsnews@gmail.com
membership@sngms.net



Diverse and remarkable NEVADA

A reminder that Nevada is a geologically diverse state, featuring ancient rocks, dramatic mountain ranges, volcanic fields, and unique caves that reveal millions of years of Earth's history.

Ancient Rocks and Geological History

Nevada's geology began forming in the **Proterozoic**, with some of the oldest rocks in the East Humboldt Range dating back **2.5 billion years**, marking the boundary between the Archean and Proterozoic eras [Wikipedia](#). The state was once part of the supercontinent **Rodinia** around one billion years ago and has undergone extensive rifting, subduction, and sediment accumulation over hundreds of millions of years [Wikipedia](#). Central Nevada preserves deep-water deposits like **shale, siltstone, and chert**, while eastern ranges such as the Monitor and Schell Creek are dominated by **limestone and dolomite** formed under ancient marine conditions [Wikipedia](#).

Basin and Range Topography

Nevada is home to **314 named mountain ranges**, more than any other U.S. state, creating the distinctive **Basin and Range Province** with parallel mountain chains separated by valleys [findingdulcinea.com](#). This topography results from **faulting and extension** over the past 20 million years, producing dramatic elevation changes and diverse ecosystems [things4locals.com+1](#). The state's highest point, **Boundary Peak**, rises to **13,147 feet**, while Wheeler Peak in Great Basin National Park reaches **13,063 feet**, showcasing glacially carved valleys [things4locals.com+1](#).

Volcanic and Geothermal Features

Nevada contains remnants of ancient volcanic activity, including the **Lunar Crater Volcanic Field** and **Steamboat Springs geothermal area** [things4locals.com+1](#). Unique formations like **double cinder cones** and bent oval craters illustrate the state's volcanic past [Atlas Obscura](#). Additionally, Nevada has over **300 hot springs**, a result of its location along the **Pacific Ring of Fire**, providing both geological insight and recreational opportunities [findingdulcinea.com](#).

Caves and Mineral Wealth

The **Lehman Caves** in Great Basin National Park are marble caves with intricate **stalactites and stalagmites**, formed over millennia [things4locals.com](#). Nevada's rich mineral deposits, including **silver, opal, and magnesium carbonate**, have shaped its mining history and contributed to its nickname, the "Silver State" [earthathome.org+1](#). Fossils like the **Triassic ichthyosaur Shonisaurus popularis** highlight Nevada's ancient marine environments [earthathome.org](#).

Unique Geological Formations

Other notable features include **slot canyons near Lake Mead**, **red rock formations along the Extraterrestrial Highway**, and **colorful sandstone fins** that weather into bizarre shapes [Atlas Obscura](#). These formations provide both scientific interest and scenic beauty, making Nevada a treasure trove for geologists and nature enthusiasts alike. Nevada's geology is a remarkable record of **ancient oceans, volcanic activity, tectonic shifts, and glacial processes**, offering a window into Earth's dynamic history and creating landscapes that are both scientifically significant and visually stunning.