



THE POLISHED SLAB

SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY



October 2026

A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUDS SINCE 1940

VOLUME 86 ISSUE 10

President's Message - Tyra Tripp

It's almost time for our Awards Banquet. The Board will send out an email asking members to submit a summary of volunteer hours worked. Please be sure to provide the information as soon as possible.

I'm looking forward to the upcoming awards banquet. On Saturday Jonathan Tredwell, Chops Wenzl, and Kim Wenzl and I went to Las Vegas National Golf Club to sample the food that will be served to banquet attendees. It was delicious. Chops asked if he could get 10 pounds in a to-go box. That sounded like a pretty good idea to me. The setting is beautiful and spacious.



Let's make our silent auction a huge success this year. Please drop off your graciously donated items at SNGMS LEC. Be sure to include your name so we can recognize and thank you for your donation. – Tyra

Elections for SNGMS Board of Directors will be held at the November 2026 meeting.

Please join us at the general meeting held on November 2nd from 5pm-8pm at the Eagles Lodge #1213, 1601 E. Washington Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89101 to cast your vote!

Last Call for Vendors!

The date is fast approaching for the highly anticipated Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society's Annual Viva Las Vegas Rocks! Show. The final call for Vendors is at hand with an unexpected booth space cancellation. Now is your chance to grab one of the last spots available for this heavily attended and anticipated rock and gem show of the year. This is an excellent opportunity for vendors to sell and showcase their handcrafted jewelry, gems, rocks and minerals, lapidary equipment and supplies, rock collections, jewelry findings, etc. This exciting family-friendly event features door prizes, speakers, auctions, break-out learning opportunities held by experts in the field, collectors and rockhounds of all ages. Visit www.sngms.net to grab the last spot!

Viva Las Vegas Rocks! Show Volunteers Needed

The show of the year is coming up on us quickly. SNGMS needs volunteers to assist with weekend events. The show is being held at the Santa Fe Casino, 4949 N Rancho Dr. Las Vegas, NV, 89130 - Friday November 6th - Sunday, November 8th. Various positions and time slots are needed. See a full list of opportunities on our website at www.sngms.net/sngmsvivavolunteers. Positions include Ticket Takers, Check-In, Vendor Move-In, Floor Monitor, and Membership.



SNGMS General Meeting Minutes – October 2nd, 2026

The SNGMS General meeting began at 6:03 pm. The pledge of allegiance was recited. 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. Door prizes were provided by Michael Kirk. The Secretary read the September 14, 2026, General Meeting Minutes and the minutes were accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report: There is a \$5,600 increase in the checking account due to booth sales for the Viva Las Vegas Rocks Gem & Mineral show. There is a \$65 increase in the investment account due to interest accrual.

Resignation of Parliamentarian: Tyra Tripp announced Michael Kirk resigned as parliamentarian. Orville Wiemers nominated Peggy Sue Moore to fill the position. Ann Harris seconded. The motion passed. Mary Beth Paladino swore Peggy Sue into office.

Volunteers: Ron Mazz asked for Viva Las Vegas Rocks Gem & Mineral show volunteers. He reminded members that he is collecting volunteer hours for 2026 and asked that members email their hours as listed below:

2027 Volunteer Activity	Mail Hours to:	Email Address
Board of Directors	Tyra Tripp	president@sngms.net
Kids Club	Wendy Dresser	wndresser@gmail.com
Lapidary & Education Ctr.	Mike Yslas	info@rockhoundingnation.com
Spring Jamboree	Orville Wiemers	orville.wiemers@sngms.net
Viva Gem & Mineral Show	Andrea Packo	showchairviva@sngms.net
Everything Else	Ron Mazz	vicepresident@sngms.net

Lapidary and Education Center Matching Grant: Ralph Voelker announced a matching grant of up to \$7,000 for LEC improvements and equipment replacement. If SNGMS members match the \$7,000, it's fully matched. Donate online at <https://www.sngms.net/donate> or at a general meeting.

Nominating Committee: SNGMS elections will be held at the November 2026 General Meeting. Andrea Packo reported the following candidates for 2027 Board of Director offices. Candidates gave short speeches which are paraphrased below.

Office	Candidates
President	Tyra Tripp
	Michael Yslas
Vice President	Ron Mazz
	Jonathan Tredwell
Treasurer	Joe Weibert
Secretary	Lorrilee Stackhouse
Parliamentarian	Peggy Sue Moore
3-Year Board Member	Kimo Taylor
Provisional 1-Year Board Member*	Amber Palecek

**If the current President is re-elected, a 1-year board member position needs to be filled.*

President Candidates:

Tyra Tripp: *I learned so much this year and would like another year as president to apply the learning. My goal is to benefit existing and future hobbyists.*

Mike Yslas: *I have a long history in business and the military. I manage businesses worth \$10 million and am huge in social media. I want to bring in more members, and I want to provide things that members want. Please see me if you have questions.*

Vice President Candidates:

Ron Mazz: *I have been vice president for 2 years and would like to continue for a final year to promote shows, raise funds, and comply with bylaws.*

Jonathan Tredwell: *I have been a SNGMS member since 2022 and field trip chair for 3 years. I want to bring members together, share knowledge, and see new places. I have connections with local mine owners. I found new fundraising and community outreach opportunities and a new venue for the Awards Banquet. I want to listen to members.*

Secretary Candidates:

Lorrilee Stackhouse: *I have a long history of 9 years as the SNGMS secretary. I edited the newsletter, served as webmaster, and am writing SNGMS membership software. I want to move SNGMS into using more technology.*

Parliamentarian:

Peggy Sue Moore: *I have been president four times and treasurer twice. I want to get SNGMS back on track with full transparency for bylaw changes and more informal field trips.*

Treasurer:

Joe Weibert: *I retired in 2022. For 38 years I was self-employed, running my own business. I have been a SNGMS member for 4-5 years and want to give back.*

3 Year Board Membership:

Kimo Taylor: *I want to be helpful.*

Miami Mining Expo: Mary Beth Paladino and Wendy Dresser attended the Miami Mining Expo in Miami, Arizona. It was a successful networking effort. The Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies show will be held in Logan, Utah in 2027.

Kids Club: Wendy Dresser thanked volunteers who helped with the rockhounding safety class and for donating candy for the Halloween party. She thanked Trev Stinnett for donating walking sticks to the Kids Club. On October 11, 2016, at the LEC, the Kids Club will work on their Showmanship badges. The Halloween party will be at the Eagles Lodge from noon – 2 pm on October 17, 2026. The Kids Club will staff the membership table and provide demonstrations at the Viva Las Vegas Rocks Gem & Mineral show from November 6 -8, 2026. There will be a field trip on November 14, 2026, to the Railroad Museum in Boulder City, NV.

Jamboree: Orville Wiemers reported that 60-70 % of the booths for the Boulder City Jamboree show in May 2027 have been pre-sold. Boulder City resurfaced the gym floor and no tape is allowed, so SNGMS will need to buy ramps to cover electrical cords. Orville requested \$9,500 for the 2027 Jamboree budget. Amber Palecek moved to allocate \$9,500 for the Jamboree, George Stewart seconded, the motion passed.

Field Trips: Joel Coombs reported the Holt Canyon, Utah field trip didn't happen because the highway to Enterprise, Utah was closed for a marathon. He will lead another Holt Canyon trip on October 17, 2026, with a meetup time of 9 am. An email blast with details will be sent. Jonathan Tredwell reminded members there is a field trip to Brenda, Arizona to collect jasper and quartz on October 10. That same weekend, there is a gem & mineral show in Buckeye, Arizona. Bruce Martin will lead field trips to collect turquoise at Pilot Mountain and Broken Arrow mines, respectively, near Tonopah, NV. On October 24, 2026, there will be a field trip to the Cactus Joe mine near Goodsprings, Nevada with a coffee truck. The cost has not yet been determined. As a fundraiser, SNGMS will sell tickets near the center of the field for the Desert Dogs lacrosse team game on December 5, 2026. SNGMS will have an information table at the game, and there will be on-field activities for kids. The cover band will be Queen. There will be an email blast about ticket prices.

Sunshine Report: Mary Beth Paladino reported that Ken Martin died. Susan Keller has pneumonia. Wendy Dresser's husband is slated for medical tests. Michael Kirk is recovering from back surgery. Bill Kogan is in a rehab facility recovering from pneumonia Lloyd Chayette is scheduled for back surgery.

Lapidary and Education Center Report: Mike Yslas reported the water saw and one 18" saw are down. Wheels 4-6 on the cab machines continue to have excessive wear.

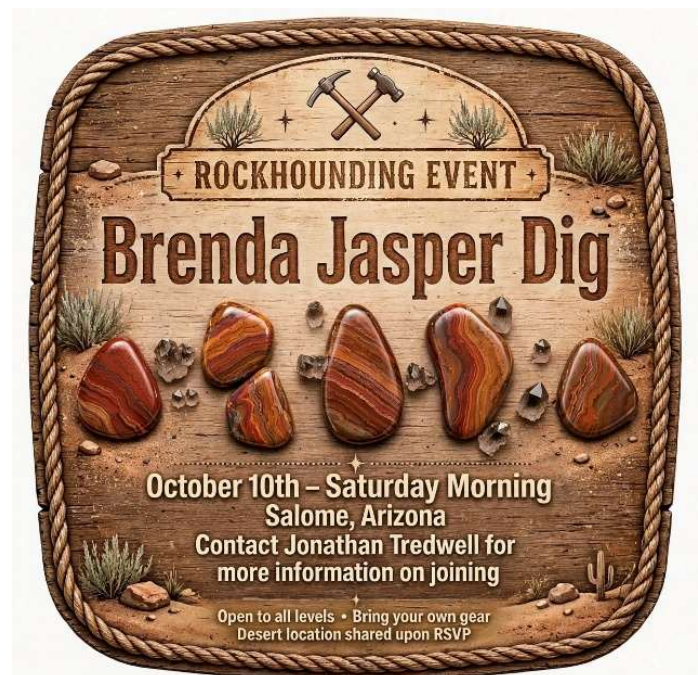
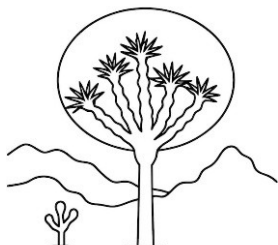
Viva Las Vegas Rocks Gem & Mineral Show: Andrea Packo reported there are 3 vendor booths left due to cancellations. She asked members to forward show ads on social media. The next Viva meeting is on October 9, 2026, at 1 pm at Desert Art Supplies in Henderson, Nevada.

Matching Grant Donations: At the end of the meeting, Ralph Voelker announced SNGMS raised approximately \$3,500 towards the LEC matching grant.

The meeting adjourned at 8 pm.

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.



Welcome New Members!

New Member Orientation

Welcome new members and members returning 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 an orientation sessions at the SNGMS Lapidary & Education Center. To reserve your spot at the new member orientation, **please email Richard Nelson at Richard_nels89@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.

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, Jonathan 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.

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! Training is provided!

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. Oct 12, 6:30-9:30 pm Mon. Oct 26, 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	moorepeggyssue@gmail.com for reservations - must commit to 3 consecutive classes
Cabochon Making	Joel	Wed. Oct 14, 5:00 –7:00 pm Wed. Oct 28, 5:00 –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
Brenda Jasper	October 10th	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
Holt Canyon, Utah	October 17, 2026	Contact Joel Coombs and watch for email
Kokoweef Mine – kokoweef cave onyx, aragonite, and citrine	October 24, 2026, 8am Terribles Chevron, Primm	Contact Jonathan Treadwell to RSVP fieldtrips@sngms.net 725-377-0166
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 Treadwell 725-377-0166

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

VOLUNTEER FIELDTRIP COORDINATORS NEEDED!

Brad's Bench Tips

Emery Boards

The key to getting a lustrous polish on your jewelry work is having a good selection of sandpaper handy for pre-polishing before going to the buffer. A good rule is to start around 400 grit and then go to 800 and 1200 respectively.

While some projects do require sheets of sandpaper, my favorite way of sanding small jewelry items is to use emery boards; like the kind used for doing your fingernails. The emery boards with the thin foam core work best. They have enough resistance to sand the high points off a flat surface and yet give a little when you're trying to smooth off a curved surface. Emery boards are inexpensive and come in a variety of grits. Some grits are so fine they give an almost finished surface. Pick up a few at a beauty supply company, your local drug store, or from Amazon.

Wear Your Mask

Inhaled particles from smoke, dust and even microscopic particles of Quartz from your diamond disc get trapped in the wet mucus in your airways. Tiny hair-like structures called cilia push the mucus upward so you can cough it or even swallow it.

Often, very fine particles go deep into the tiny air sacs where cleaning is slow. Some insoluble dust or toxic matter can stay trapped in the lung tissue or inside overloaded immune cells for a very long time and can even cross the barrier inside your lungs and even move directly into your blood traveling to other organs like your heart and brain.

Many lapidary particles can stay in your lungs permanently. When you grind, cut or polish stones, you create extremely fine rock dust. While upper respiratory tract traps larger particles, the microscopic dust bypasses your body's natural defense system and settles deep into your lungs' air sacs.

Because many minerals are insoluble and cannot be broken down by the body, they remain trapped, leading to serious health risks.

- **Permanent scarring:** Also known as Silicosis. Many popular stones and minerals like agate, jasper, chalcedony, and quartz are made of crystalline silica. When these microscopic silica shards get trapped deep in the tissue, they puncture and irritate lung cells. Your immune system attempts to wall them off which creates irreversible

scarring called silicosis.

- **Chemical Toxicity:** Some minerals don't just stay in your lungs; they are actively poisonous. Grinding malachite, azurite or chrysocolla releases heavy copper oxide dust that can cause chemical burns and systemic poisoning in the lungs

It just makes good sense to wear a good respirator or at least an N-95 mask. Harbor Freight sells them very inexpensively.



DESERT DOGS FUNDRAISER NIGHT!
Las Vegas Desert Dogs vs. Colorado Mammoth
SATURDAY • DECEMBER 5, 2026 • 7:00 PM
Lee's Family Forum • Henderson, NV
SUPPORT SNGMS – FUNDRAISER FOR OUR CLUB!

Join SNGMS members for a fun night cheering on the Desert Dogs. When our members attend, a portion supports SNGMS programs.

- ♦ SNGMS will have an informational table at the game to promote the club and welcome new members
- ♦ Celebrate with us before our Annual Banquet Dinner on Dec 6 at Las Vegas National Golf Club.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Ticket info coming soon – watch your email for the member link. Bring friends & family to help grow the club while enjoying pro indoor lacrosse action!

**For info & tickets: sngms.net
 Jonathan.tredwell@sngms.net •**



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.

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



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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
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, 2024	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



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SNGMS Board Meeting Minutes – September 28, 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 Michael Kirk who was excused, and Harvey Bergeron, who was absent. The minutes for the August 31, 2026, SNGMS board meeting were read and approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: Dave Ford reported a \$5,130 increase in the SNGMS checking account due to booth sales for the Viva Las Vegas Rocks gem and mineral show. \$70 in interest was earned on the investment account. Currently, there is \$16,000 in the checking account. This amount will drop to about \$8000 in October 2026 due to the LEC rent payment and payment for the Viva show. On December 6, 2026, payment for the Awards Banquet venue is due, but this will not affect the SNGMS budget when Rockhounding Nation provides their promised \$2,000 donation. Federation dues of \$1,500 will be paid in December 2026. At the next General Meeting, Orville Wiemers will request approval of the 2027 Spring Jamboree gem and mineral show budget. Boulder City confirmed that tape will not be allowed on the gym floor for the 2027 Jamboree show, and the city will not provide an alternative method of securing electrical cords. SNGMS will probably have to purchase ramps to cover cords.

Master Calendar: The SNGMS Master Calendar was reviewed with emphasis on action items for the next three months.

Awards Banquet: The Awards Banquet silent auction items have been requested via email, and donations are coming in. Jonathan Tredwell arranged for Paymon's Restaurant to donation a gift certificate. The Las Vegas Golf Club is donating a round of golf for four people. Ron Mazz will donate an amethyst specimen. Sara Tredwell and Tyra Tripp will set up the auction and will recruit one more person to help. The SNGMS bags and tubs from the U-Haul storage facility need to be retrieved for the auction setup.

Donation Announcement: Ralph Voelker will make a \$7,000 matching donation announcement at the October 2026 general meeting. He provided sample pledge cards. The donation is restricted to LEC improvement and equipment replacement. Ralph suggested making the announcement before the break to allow for questions during the break. Tyra Tripp will ask Lorrilee Stackhouse to add a match donation button to the SNGMS web site. The plan is to use a phone hotspot with a computer during the general meeting to take credit card donations.

Nominating Committee: Sara Tredwell reported nominees for all open SNGMS board positions have been identified except for Treasurer. Potential Treasurer candidates were discussed. Sara will have ballots printed for the November 2026 general meeting.

Speaker Gifts: Romy Umholtz has requested a budget for speaker gifts. Ralph Voelker suggests adding volunteer pins to the gift if pins are available. Dave Ford suggested a budget of \$200 for speaker gifts, and the board agreed.

Google Drive: Lisa Wiemers provided a list of files stored on the SNGMS google drive and asked who should have access to the files.

Fall BBQ and Rock Swap: Tyra Tripp suggested Sunday, November 15, 2026, for the SNGMS fall BBQ. She will let Reggie Beatty know the date for inclusion in the monthly calendar.

At 5:15 pm, the SNGMS board went into executive session. The meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.

2026 Cabochon Contests

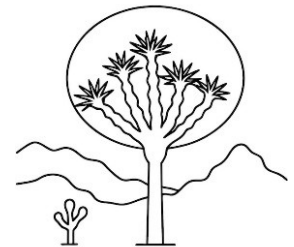
The SNGMS hosts a cabochon contest at our monthly meetings. A cabochon is a jewelry-ready stone with a visible dome on the front face and a flat backside. Meeting attendees vote on their favorite cab. The first-place award is 2 hours of free shop time, and the second-place winner is 1-hour of free shop 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	1 st - George Stewart 2 nd - Ralph Voelker & Jason Fabbi
November	Nevada collected - Rhyolite	
December	No Contest	



L-R: George Stewart, Ralph Voelker, Jason Fabbi



Useless Lapidary Bits



Amethyst was historically cut into wine goblets by Roman and Greek Lapidaries. The name comes from *amethystos* (not drunk) because they believed the stone's composition would chemically neutralize alcohol and prevent intoxication.



The Norse were said to use sunstone to navigate on cloudy days; relying on its unique ability to polarize light. The stone is believed to have been worked into navigation tools and amulets by ancient lapidaries.



The patronage of royals, especially in Renaissance Italy, created a demand for the lapidary arts as gemstones were used to demonstrate wealth and status. That means we have Royal status!

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	OPEN	fieldtrip@sngms.net	
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 & 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	Lorrilee Stackhouse	webmaster@sngms.net	702-817-5602

SNGMS Members Visit Blue Moon Turquoise Mine

A handful of SNGMS members visited the Blue Moon Turquoise Mine on a gorgeous and sunny September day in Nevada. The Mine is owned by Trenton and Tony Otteson. Located in the Royston District outside of Tonopah, NV, the Blue Moon Mine produces highly prized turquoise ranging in color from green to dark blue and sometimes with yellow and orange polychrome. The most desirable is mid to dark range blue with spectacular black spider webbing. You'll see some of the beautiful specimens being cut and polished at the LEC soon!



Bud Craner. SNGMS



A sampling of mined Blue Moon Turquoise

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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.



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18" Saw with new motor

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DESERT DOGS FUNDRAISER NIGHT!
Las Vegas Desert Dogs vs. Colorado Mammoth
SATURDAY • DECEMBER 5, 2026 • 7:00 PM
Lee's Family Forum • Henderson, NV
SUPPORT SNGMS – FUNDRAISER FOR OUR CLUB!

Join SNGMS members for a fun night cheering on the Desert Dogs. When our members attend, a portion supports SNGMS programs.

- ◆ SNGMS will have an informational table at the game to promote the club and welcome new members
- ◆ Celebrate with us before our Annual Banquet Dinner on Dec 6 at Las Vegas National Golf Club.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Ticket info coming soon – watch your email for the member link. Bring friends & family to help grow the club while enjoying pro indoor lacrosse action!



For info & tickets: sngms.net
 Jonathan.tredwell@sngms.net

Beginning Silver Smithing Classes

Desert Art Supplies - Fridays 9:30 am - 12:15 pm
2750 N Green Valley Pkwy, Suite D
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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!

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