



THE POLISHED SLAB

SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY



February 2026

A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUNDS SINCE 1940

VOLUME 86 ISSUE 2

UPCOMING MEETINGS

SNGMS Board Meeting Feb. 23, 2026
SNGMS General Mtg. Mar. 2, 2026

SNGMS Contacts:

www.sngms.net
president@sngms.net
sngmspresident@gmail.com
sngmsvicepresident@gmail.com
secretary@sngms.net
sngmstreasurer@gmail.com
sngmsshowchair@gmail.com
sngmspublicity@gmail.com
sngmsjamboreeshowchair@gmail.com

Congratulations Mike Yslas Lapidary & Education Center Manager

Mike Yslas is the new LEC manager,
effective immediately.

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SNGMS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

You Can Help!

Contact Ron Mazz

zman8229@gmail.com or 586-914-4130

Meeting Greeter (need more than one)

Greet people as they arrive at the monthly General Meeting, help them sign in, pass out door prize tickets, and cabochon contest voting slips. **5 pm - 6 pm once a month at the General Meeting.**

Speaker Coordinator

Line up speakers for the monthly General Meetings, **February - October** (no speakers in January, November, or December). Send speakers information on SNGMS audio visual support (a standard email), greet the speaker at the meeting, and help them coordinate with the AV Wrangler.

Lapidary Supervisor (need more than one)

Supervise SNGMS member sign-in, sign-out, collect fees, provide assistance using LEC equipment. Maintain equipment logs as needed. Write trouble tickets for the engineering staff for equipment maintenance as needed. **Scheduled shifts are a minimum of 4 hours, can work 1 or more shifts per month. Floater, daytime, evening, and weekend shifts available.** Rarely, there is a supervisors' staff meeting.



2026 Field Trips¹ & Events

Field Trip ¹ /Event	Date	Location
Diamond Pacific yard	March	Barstow, CA
Ottenson Mine for turquoise	April	Near Tonopah, NV

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

Las Vegas Desert Dogs Lacrosse Team Partnership!

Every SNGMS member can purchase discounted tickets and, best of all, a portion of every ticket sold goes directly to support the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society!

Who's Playing: Las Vegas Desert Dogs vs. Colorado Mammoth

Price: Tickets are \$29.12. Deadline for purchase is Feb 13, 2026 at 7:30 PM

Location: The game is at Lee's Family Forum, 200 S Green Valley Pkwy, Henderson, NV 89012

Date: Feb 13, 2026. Game Starts: 7:30 PM. Tailgate Party: Kicks off at 4:30 PM. Doors Open: 6:30 PM.

This is more than just lacrosse it's a night of fun, community, and entertainment:

- Fast-paced Las Vegas Desert Dogs Lacrosse action
- A high-energy KISS tribute band to Rock the Box!
- Discounted tickets available for members, family, and friends

The more tickets we sell, the more support and awareness we raise for SNGMS! Let's pack the arena, cheer on the Desert Dogs, and show the community the strength of our rockhounding family.

Here is the link to purchase tickets:

<https://www.gofevo.com/event/Southernneva2026>

Get your tickets today and join us for an unforgettable night!

Any questions please contact Amber Palecek (702-343-7150) or JonathTredwell(sngmsfieldtrip@gmail.com, 725-377-0166) for more information.



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WHOLESALE / RETAILS



SNGMS Strategic Planning

**March 2, 2026
General Meeting**

Your input is requested!

See page 15 for details



SNGMS Board Meeting Minutes for 1/29/2026

The regular Board of Directors meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 4:00 pm at the SNGMS Lapidary and Education Center by the President. All board members except the Vice President and Treasurer and were present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The minutes of the January 8, 2026 board meeting were approved.

Unfinished Business:

Etsy Store Update – Mary Savage reported the Legal Aid Society of Southern Nevada will discuss the effects of an Etsy store on the nonprofit status of SNGMS on February 17, 2026.

5 Year Plan Update – Ralph Voelker expects to form a building fundraising steering committee with 30 days. A SWOT analysis (strength, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) is scheduled for the March 2026 General meeting. Notice of the SWOT analysis will be published in the February 2026 Slab and announced at the February 2026 General meeting.

LEC Security - A security camera for the SNGMS Lapidary and Education Center (LEC) was discussed. At the February 2026 General meeting, volunteers with security expertise will be requested to evaluate camera options. Cox is the only internet provider for the LEC neighborhood. The cost for a 300 mbps connection is \$88/month (\$1080/year) with a \$99 installation fee. The security camera/wifi discussion will continue next month based on additional information.

Board Email Addresses - Orville Wiemers will check if it's possible to forward mail from xxx@gmail.com to xxx@sngms.net.

LEC Report - Orville Wiemers reported all equipment is up and he will investigate replacing the bottle jack in the hydraulic press. Some equipment is available for sale. The A, B, and C slab saws are set to their fastest speeds. There was a discussion about the need to replace large flat lap disks and the water saw blade. Lloyd Chayette will investigate and create trouble tickets as needed.

Bylaws Update - Michael Kirk reviewed comments submitted by Ron Mazz and Mary Savage. Some small amendments were made regarding wording and retention of insurance policies. Ralph Voelker moved to approve the bylaws as amended and Orville Wiemers seconded. The motion passed. Lisa Wiemers will make arrangements to email the amended bylaws to the general membership and to print a few hard copies for the General meeting. The General Membership will be asked to vote on the bylaw changes in March 2026. Some changes will need to propagate to the SNGMS Standing Rules if the bylaws are updated.

Field Trips - Jonathan Tredwell is reviewing potential dates for a trip to the Cadys Mountains in California.

Show Updates - 1/3 of the Spring Jamboree vendors have paid for their slots. Six vendors requested information for outdoor booths. The first organizational meeting is February 7, 2026 at 3 pm at Desert Art Supplies in Henderson, NV.

New Business:

Board Meeting Schedule - Mary Savage moved to change SNGMS Board Meetings to Mondays to avoid interfering with LEC user hours. Harvey Bergeron seconded, the motion carried.

LEC - The new LEC Manager is Mike Yslas.

Projector Screen Replacement - Timothy Ruzic offered to donate a used screen to SNGMS.

2026 Awards Banquet - The cost of having the banquet at Sunset Stations Casino increased by \$1700 to \$9450. Other venues wanted even more money. Jonathan Tredwell will investigate the cost of having the banquet at a golf course.

Desert Dogs LaCrosse Fundraiser - So far, 39 tickets out of 300 have been sold.

Social Media Issues - Mary Savage will work on documenting access to Facebook and Google Business Profile.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.



SNGMS General Meeting Minutes for 2/2/2026

The General meeting of the SNGMS was called to order on February 2, 2026 at 6 pm by Tyra Tripp. She acknowledged new members and people with show and tell items. Volunteer appreciation gifts were distributed for those not present at the 2025 SNGMS Awards Banquet. Appreciation gifts for members who volunteered in 2025 were distributed by Orville Wiemers. There was a door prize drawing and a Program volunteer was requested. Minutes from the January 12, 2025 General Meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: The checking account is up \$524, the investment account is flat. The first payment for the Viva Las Vegas Rocks show venue has been made.

Lapidary and Education Center Report: The LEC alarm was activated, but the alarm company was unable to contact a SNGMS representative, so the police were called for a false alarm. Orville Wiemers and Dave Ford will work on the alarm notification system. Mike Yslas is the new LEC manager. Volunteer supervisors are needed due to recent resignations. Alternate week shifts and fill-in slots are available. Training will be provided, it takes about a day.

Kids Club: Wendy Dresser tanked Jonathan Tredwell and Mike Yslas for a field trip scouting tour of their mining claim. A presentation was given to a home school group, and another presentation about volcanoes will be provided in May. The February 7, 2026 field trip to the Ore Car Mine was mentioned. Volunteers are needed for a science fair booth on Friday February 27, 2026 from 4 – 6 pm at Stanford Elementary School. Volunteers are needed for the Kids Club booth at the Spring Jamboree, May 2-3, 2026. The location of free rock collection sites was requested.

Field Trips: Amber Palecek and Jen Hopkins discussed March 2026 field trip options in the Barstow, CA area which include Diamond Pacific, Cactus Rock Mine, and Green Ash Hills. Green Ash Hills is near Yermo, CA and has onyx.

Fundraising: To date, 50 tickets to the Desert Dogs Lacrosse game have been sold, providing \$350 to SNGMS. Tickets for the February 13, 2026 game are still available (see page 2 of this edition of the Polished Slab for details).

Presentation: Timothy Ruiz donated a new projector screen to SNGMS. A portable low table or stand is needed for the projector, please contact Tyra Tripp if you can help (sngmspresident@sngms.net or 702-493-2503). Rayette Martin spoke about Citizen Stewardship: Preserving Archeological Sites. Romy Umholtz asked for suggestions for future presentations.

Sunshine Report: See page 5 of this edition of the Polished Slab.

Cabochon Contest: Evan Plumleigh won first place, and Patty Johnson took second.

Old Business:

Awards Banquet: Chops Wenzl reported the bid from Santa Fe Station is \$9450. Jonathan Tredwell reported the bid from the Las Vegas National Golf Center is \$7500, and a separate room for an auction will be provided. Wayne Muth volunteered to get a bid from The Westin. Discussion was tabled until the March 2026 General Meeting.

LEC Security Camera: Volunteers with electronic security expertise were requested to assist with system evaluations.

New Business:

Meetings: SNGMS Board of Director meetings will be now be held the Monday before the General Meeting.

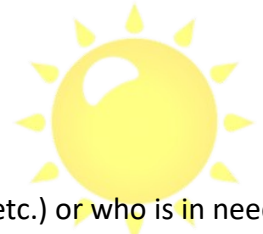
By-Laws: Revised SNGMS by-laws will be emailed to members, and hard copies are available tonight. The SNGMS membership will vote on the revisions at the March 2026 General Meeting.

Upcoming Events: SNGMS classes for February 2026 were mentioned. The 2026 Spring Jamboree booth sales are going well. The first Jamboree meeting will be on February 7, 2026 at 3 pm at Desert Arts Supply in Henderson. Wayne Muth will step down as the Hospitality volunteer in 2027 and a replacement will be needed.

Wayne Muth moved to adjourn the meeting, Peggy Sue Moore seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm.

Sunshine Report

from Beth Jones

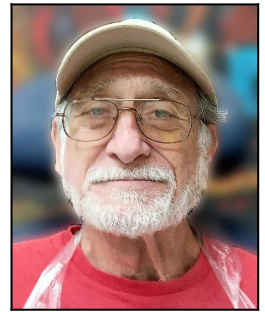


If you hear of any SNGMS member with an event to celebrate (wedding, anniversary, etc.) or who is in need of a bit of sunshine due to accident, illness, etc., please contact Beth Jones. punkyjones@hotmail.com or 702-255-1647.

Mary Beth Paladino is feeling better after a fall. Michael Kirk and Roy Mobley are recovering from back surgery. Jack Toogood is scheduled for cataract surgery. Nancy Tatum and Donald Dresser are having heart issues. Gerry Hughes is recovering from a fall.

Member Spotlight David Rosinsky

David Rosinsky is from Niagara Falls, New York. When he graduated from college, he moved to San Diego, California with a cat. The move was done via a job with a drive-away company. He drove a green 1969 GTO from New York to San Diego. In San Diego, he repossessed cars cross-country for four years. He repossessed cars from every state in the lower 48.



David Rosinsky

With a business partner, David opened restaurants and flight schools at airports west of the Mississippi. He and his partner were both pilots, and the restaurant/flight school combination was great. They sold gyrocopter lessons, rides, and machines in South Dakota. Their company was the only gyrocopter to fly in the Ellsworth Air Force Base airshow. They had the only motored glider school in the Los Angeles basin (the school was in El Monte). David says the best way to glide is to ride the thermals up until you hit cold air, come down, and look for another thermal updraft to keep gliding.

David owned the restaurant at the North Las Vegas Airport, and eventually moved to Las Vegas to be close to his grandchildren who ran the restaurant. He has lived in Las Vegas since about 2005.

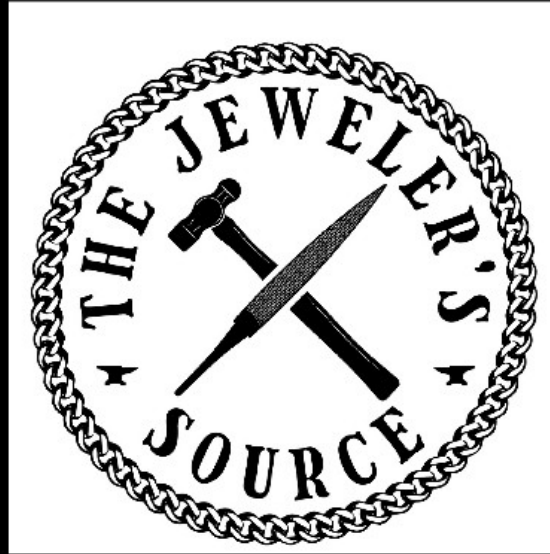
After joining a gold club in Kingman, Arizona, David got interested in rocks because it's easier to find pretty rocks than gold! He found the SNGMS on the internet, and Andrea Kincannon signed him up as a SNGMS member. One month later, David was a lapidary supervisor!

Hi enjoys cutting agates because he likes the high polish they can achieve. He does not buy stones or slabs, and finds all his own material. Agate from the SNGMS Ore Car mining claim is one of his favorites. David lives close to the Keystone Fault and finds lots of fossils in the area. He makes cabochons and jewelry, and often includes some of his work with tips!

36 inch Barranca Diamond Slab Saw For Sale
Contact Frank Koot 702-658-8168
\$3500

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thejewelerssource@gmail.com

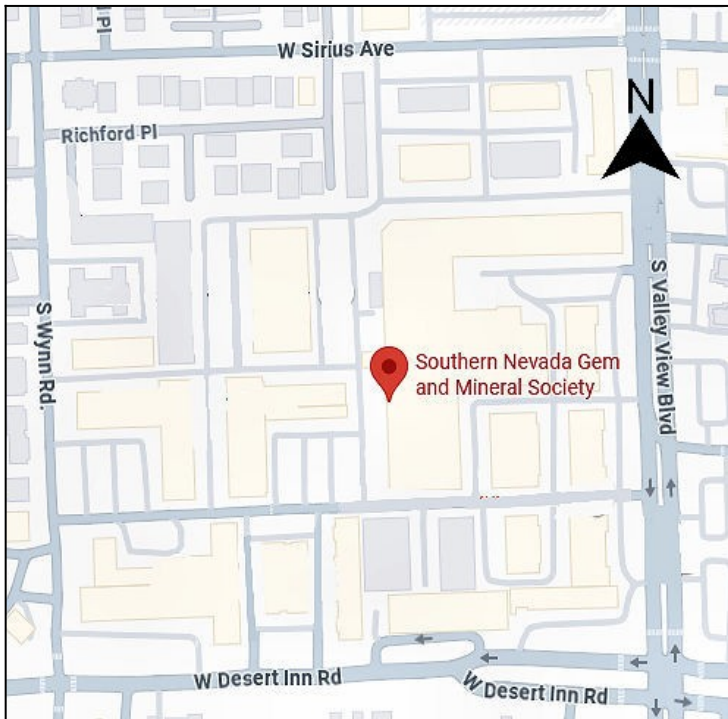
IG - thejewelerssource

SNGMS Meeting Schedules and SNGMS Lapidary & Education Center Hours

SNGMS 2025 – 2026 Meeting Schedule		
Board Meeting ¹	General Meeting ²	Kids Club Meeting ³
Feb 23, 2026	Mar 2, 2026	Mar 8, 2026
Mar 30, 2026	Apr 6, 2026	Apr 12, 2026
Apr 27, 2026	May 4, 2026	May 10, 2026 – NO MEETING
May 25, 2026	Jun 1, 2026	Jun 14, 2026
Jun 29, 2026	Jul 6, 2026	Jul 12, 2026
Jul 27, 2026	Aug 3, 2026	Aug 9, 2026
Sep 7, 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
Dec no meeting, Awards Banquet	Dec no meeting, Awards Banquet	Dec no meeting, Awards Banquet

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.

- 1) Meets at SNGMS Lapidary and Education Center except filed trips and special events
- 2) Meets at Eagles’ Lodge 1st Monday of the month, unless there’s a holiday, open to the public. Show & Sell 5-6 pm, meeting 6-8 pm
- 3) Meets at SNGMS Lapidary and Education Center with exception of some field trips, membership required. Details on page 3.



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

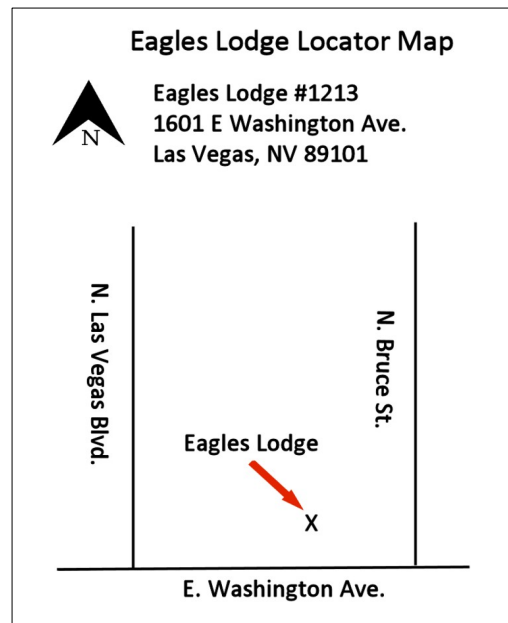
SNGMS LAPIDARY AND EDUCATION CENTER HOURS*

Sunday 10 am – 3 pm <= CLOSED, no supervisor available
 Monday Closed for general use: Various Classes
 Tuesday 10 am - 7 pm
 Wednesday 10 am - 7 pm
 Thursday 12 - 9 pm
 Friday 12 - 5 pm
 Saturday 1 - 6 pm

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

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

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



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2025 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	
April	Nevada collected - Turquoise/variscite	
May	Medium size – length/width 30 mm maximum	
June	Nevada collected - Jasper or Agate	
July	Nevada collected - Petrified Wood	
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	



Left to right: Patty Johnson, 2nd place, entry 2
Evan Plumleigh, 1st place entry 9



February 2026 SNGMS Cabochon Contest Entries



BIRTHDAYS

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

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Veronica Anduha, Kayla Armbruster, Beth Banks, L.E. Baskow, Jamie Beck, Jeff Boyce, Robert Burns, Leslie Burns, Teresa Carlson, Christine Colwell, Joel Coombs, Lesley Denny, Carina Dusel, Edgar Espinoza, Frank Flanagan III, Kathleen Funk, Karen Griffith-Hedberg, Jeremiah Hansen, Yvette Harris, Edward Hester, Linda Hill, Christiano Irving, Cynthia Keller, Frank Koot, Kristofer Korpi, Kevin Kuzmanich, Darci Larson, Mary Ann Mason, Iain McGaw, Dave Munkres, Aja Nicholson, Melvin Nishiuchi, Sharon Parsons, Terry Raybould, Anthony Scura, Thomas Shaw, Tina Spotofora, Carla Stone, H. Allen Stratton, Tracy Szumilo, Victoria Terzo, Stephannie Tucker, Norman Vinson, James Walkenshaw, Kerry Wenzl, Joshua Wheat, Theresa Whittle, Charles B. Williams, Imelda Winston, Glenn Woodcock, Bill Wright, Krista Wyatt

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

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

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Welcome new members to the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society! Your passion for gemstones and minerals is a perfect fit for our community of enthusiasts. To acquaint you with our workshop and equipment, we offer orientation and training sessions at the SNGMS Lapidary & Education Center. **To reserve your spot, please email Richard Nelson (richard_nelso89@hotmail.com).** There is a \$10 fee for the orientation to help cover the cost of materials which will be provided for you. The session will include demonstrations on the use of rock saws, flat laps, a geode saw, and other equipment. Best practices for working safely and effectively will be reviewed. Orientations are offered as listed below.

New Member Orientation Sessions

Orientation and Training Date	Time	Cost	Location
Monday, February 16, 2026	6:30-8:30 pm	\$10	SNGMS Lapidary & Education Ctr 3111 South Valley View Blvd, Building E Suite 125 Las Vegas, NV 89102

Speakers For 2026 General Meetings

Date	Speaker	Topic
March 2, 2026	Ralph Voelker	SWOT Analysis (see page 15 for details)

Fossil Focus: Bioherms

<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/237715693>

A bioherm is a massive, mound-like structure made of the remains of marine organisms such as corals, algae, and mollusks. There are bioherms in limestone near Overton, Nevada. They were built up from bivalve shells of mollusks similar to oysters. They are the oldest known bioherms from the Metazoan period, about 600 million years ago.

The shells got cemented together in shallow seas during the mollusk's life times to form reefs. The reefs grew in two ways, either as a column or as a dome. The cementing process started when some mollusks glued themselves to a hard substrate. The reefs grew as young bivalves settled and grew on top of older bivalves. Most of the shells preserved in the bioherms are the right side of the shell because the right shell is the bigger, lower half of the shell that cemented to the substrate. The left side of the shells was usually broken after the mollusk died due to currents or other disturbances.

The ability to form bioherms provided a way for the mollusks to live slightly above the sediment-water interface. The mollusks were filter feeders, and this helped move water across the shells.

**SNGMS Rock Stars Kids Club
2026 Field Trips and Meetings¹**

Field Trip/Meeting	Date	Location
Kids Club Meeting, 3- 5 pm	Feb 7, 2026	Ore Car Mine Field Trip ³
Kids Club Meeting, 3- 5 pm	Mar 8, 2026	SNGMS Lapidary & Education Center ²
Kids Club Meeting, 3- 5 pm	Apr 12, 2026	SNGMS Lapidary & Education Center ²
Kids Club Meeting, 3- 5 pm	May 10 – NO MEETING, MOTHER’S DAY	
Kids Club Meeting, 3- 5 pm	Jun 14, 2026	SNGMS Lapidary & Education Center ²
Kids Club Meeting, 3- 5 pm	Jul 12, 2026	SNGMS Lapidary & Education Center ²
Kids Club Meeting, 3- 5 pm	Aug 9, 2026	SNGMS Lapidary & Education Center ²
Kids Club Meeting, 3- 5 pm	Sep 13, 2026	SNGMS Lapidary & Education Center ²
Kids Club Meeting, 3- 5 pm	Oct 11, 2026	SNGMS Lapidary & Education Center ²
Kids Club Meeting, 3- 5 pm	Nov 8, 2026	SNGMS Lapidary & Education Center ²
	Dec no meeting, Awards Banquet	

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

**Joshua Tree
Gem & Mineral Show
April 1 - 5, 2026
Wednesday - Saturday
9 am - 5 pm
Sunday
9 am - 4 pm**

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More information to come:
rubysinn.com

SNGMS 2026 VOLUNTEER STAFF

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

SNGMS 2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICE	DIRECTOR	EMAIL	PHONE
President	Tyra Tripp	sngmspresident@sngms.net	702-493-2503
Vice-President	Ron Mazz	zman8229@gmail.com	586-914-4130
Secretary	Mary Savage	secretary@sngms.net	
Treasurer	Dave Ford	sngmstreasurer@gmail.com	831-521-0214
Parliamentarian	Michael Kirk	vpoker81@cox.net	702-433-4146
Past President	Orville Wiemers	Orville.wiemers@sngms.net	702-743-3277
Three Year Board	Ralph Voelker	nicepipes@yahoo.com	
Two Year Board	Harvey Bergeron	harveyrita@gmail.com	
One Year Board	Jean Chayette	jalmiz201@gmail.com	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	sngmsfieldtrip@gmail.com	725-377-0166
Google Manager	Thomas Boes	thomasboes86@gmail.com	
Historian	Lisa Wiemers	lowiemvegas@gmail.com	
Hospitality	Wayne Muth		702-255-1647
Inventory	Ron Mazz	zman8229@gmail.com	586-914-4130
Kids Club	Wendy Dresser	wndresser@gmail.com	702-556-2748
Lapidary Manager	Mike Yslas	info@rockhoundingnation.com	702 845-1477
Media Committee	Kendra White	kendrarubywhite@gmail.com	
Meeting Greeter	OPEN		
Membership	Claudia Crouse	ccrouse295@gmail.com	
Newsletter	Mary Savage	lasvegassilversmithing@protonmail.com	
New Member Liaison	Amber Palecek		702-343-7150
Program (Speakers)	OPEN		
Raffle	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	thomasboes86@gmail.com	
Spring Jamboree Show	Orville Weimers	sngmsjamboreeshowchair@gmail.com	702-743-3277
Sunshine	Beth Jones	punkyjones@hotmail.com	702-255-1647
Viva Las Vegas Rocks Show	Andrea Packo	aspacko@gmail.com	702-279-7679
Webmaster	Lorrilee Stackhouse	lorrilee@proton.me	702-817-5602

Q: Why did the rock go to school?

A: To become a little boulder.



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Hi-Tech Diamond is an online seller of cabling 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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BEAD JUNGLE

DAISY MOUNTAIN ROCK AND MINERAL SHOW
FEBRUARY 28 & MARCH 1 2026 at the
OUTLETS NORTH PHOENIX

SATURDAY 9 TO 5 PM AND SUNDAY 10 TO 4 PM

CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE WITH ADULT

Presenting Rocks, Crystals, Fossils, Jewelry, Meteorites, Beads PLUS a Raffle every 30 minutes

ALSO KIDS ROW - Lots of activities for the little ones

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO: www.dmrmc.com

Mineral Musings Borax in Nevada

<https://studylib.net/doc/16053057/borax-in-nevada-a-study-of-composite-minerals>
<https://geologyscience.com/minerals/borate-minerals/borax/>

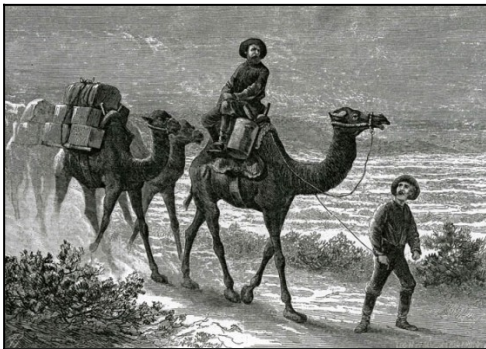
Borax, also known as sodium borate or sodium tetraborate, is a naturally occurring mineral. Borax contains boron, sodium, oxygen, and water molecules.

Borax is typically found in dry lake beds, salt flats, and sedimentary rocks. Dry lake beds and salt flats have periodic flooding followed by evaporation, which concentrates the borax. Sedimentary borax deposits also occur in regions with volcanic activity or tectonic processes that have concentrated boron-bearing minerals over geological time. Borax can also occur near hot springs and geothermal areas where thermal waters leach boron from surrounding rocks and deposit it as borax-rich deposits upon cooling.



Nevada Borax Crystal
<https://nevada-outbackgems.com>

Humans have used borax for thousands of years. The Egyptians and Romans used borax as a cleaning agent, a flux to for soldering metals, and as a preservative for food. It was also used in traditional medicine and in the production of glass and ceramics. In the modern age, borax is still used as a cleaning agent, soldering flux, and in glass and ceramics. It can be used as an eco-friendly pesticide for some insects like ants, cockroaches, and fleas. Borax is used as a fire retardant for wood and cellulose materials.



Nevada Camel Train Hauling Salt
<https://www.intermountainhistories.org/items/show/526>

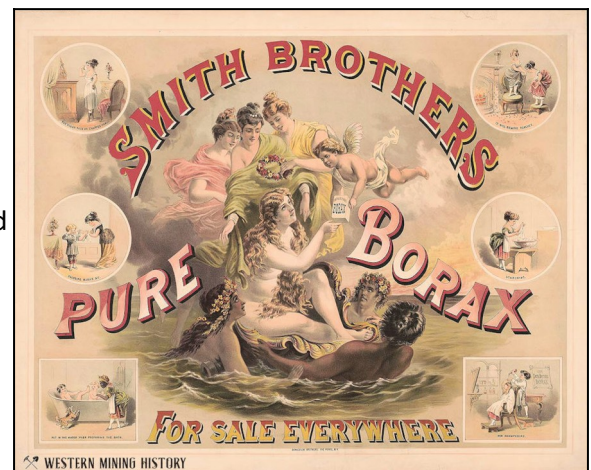
California and Nevada are significant producers of borax, with Searles Lake (a salt flat) in California being an important source. One of the first large borax mines was at the Marietta Camp near Hawthorne, Nevada. Originally known as Teels Marsh, the Marietta Camp was first developed in 1867 when salt was mined and transported by camel train to Virginia City (salt was used in processing silver ore). In 1872, Francis M. Smith, who became known as “Borax Smith,” spotted the borate potential of the marsh. He and his brother claimed much of the area.

Full scale borax mining began within months of the discovery. Wagon trains hauled the borax to a train station at Wadsworth, Nevada (lol, the towns of Hawthorne and Wadsworth were not named after authors) about 115 miles north.

The Smith brothers created Teels Marsh Borax Company, a predecessor to the Pacific Borax Salt & Soda Co., which in the late 1800s controlled the world borax market. Smith recognized the value of borax if marketed correctly. Prior to his efforts, borax was mined in Europe and used mostly for pharmaceuticals. Smith moved on to borax discoveries in Death Valley, California and became famed for his 40 mule teams that carried the ore out of Death Valley.

The discovery of the Death Valley deposits signaled the end of the Marietta Camp in Nevada. By the 1890s, the borax operations at Marietta were abandoned.

The Anniversary Mine was developed by Borax Smith. The mine operated from 1921 to 1928. The near-by SNGMS Ore Car claim has lenses of borax interbedded with clay, limestone and dolomite, and gypsum.



Late 1800s Advertisement for Smith Brothers Borax
<https://westernmininghistory.com/7807/mojave-borax-mining/>



FEBRUARY 2026 Class Schedule

(see page 10 for New Member Orientation Schedule)

Class	Instructor	Date and Time	Cost	Location	Contact
Silver Smithing	Bud Cranor, Aja Nicholson	Mon.. Feb. 9, 6:30-9:30 pm Mon. Feb. 23, 6:30-9:30 pm	\$35	SNGMS Lapidary & Ed. Cntr ¹	bacranor@yahoo.com
Faceting	Tom Kidwell	Saturdays 9 am - 1 pm	\$15.00 for the class plus \$5.00 for instructor fuel fund	SNGMS Lapidary & Ed. Cntr ¹	moorepeggysue@gmail.com for reservations - must commit to 3 consecutive classes
Cabochon Making	Beth Jones	Saturdays 1 pm – class limited to 3 people	\$10	SNGMS Lapidary & Ed. Cntr ¹	punkyjones@hotmail.com for reservations
Advanced Hydraulic Press Class	Mary Savage	Sunday, Feb. 15, 1- 4 pm class size is limited	\$20	SNGMS Lapidary & Ed. Cntr ¹	lasvegassilversmithing@protonmail.com for reservations
Flint Knapping	George Stewart, Peggy Sue Moore	February 28 , 2 – 5 pm	\$10	SNGMS Lapidary & Ed. Cntr ¹	moorepeggysue@gmail.com

1) 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102
All SNGMS class fees include a modest donation to the SNGMS.

Beginning Silver Smithing Classes

Fridays 9:30 am - 12:15pm

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

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

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

www.instagram.com/lvsilversmithing



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



Sample Project from
 Advanced Hydraulic Press Class



Strategic Plan Process

Over the past year a strategic plan for SNGMS has been developed and continues to be updated. The SNGMS Board of directors wants your valuable input to the plan.

We are pleased to announce that we will be doing a SWOT (strengths/weaknesses/opportunities/threats) Analysis at the March 2, 2026 meeting. The SWOT analysis is a group project where you share your ideas about the future of SNGMS by giving input into the following categories:

Internal Factors:

- Strengths - What are we good at? What do we do well?
- Weaknesses - What do we need to do better? What hinders our ability to be great?

External Factors:

- Opportunities -What external factors can we use to our advantage? What new ideas should we pursue to best serve our membership?
- Threats - Are there external factors that might pose a risk to SNGMS?

At the March 2, 2026 meeting, Ralph Voelker will serve as our facilitator and guide us in how to quickly identify your thoughts in each of these categories. Be prepared to share your thoughts. We will begin the process at the start of the meeting and then give the results of the exercise at the end.

If you can’t attend the meeting and would like to share your input, please email your thoughts to: secretary@sngms.net

Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society
 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, E-125
 Las Vegas, NV 89102

Return Service Requested



The Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society is a non-profit corporation, organized to educate ourselves and the community in the science and arts related to rocks, minerals, gems, fossils, and nature in general. Fostering an understanding and appreciation of the physical world, we can use it and protect it for future generations.

SNGMS Mascot: Rock Wren
 SNGMS Gemstone: Turquoise
 SNGMS Motto: Rocks-R-Us
 SNGMS Web Site: www.sngms.net
 Membership is open to anyone with an interest in:
 Rocks, Gems, Geology, Fossils, Lapidary Arts or
 Silver smithing
 Annual Dues: Individual - \$35; Family - \$45
 Meetings start 6 pm on the first Monday of the
 month at:
 Eagles Lodge #1213
 1601 E Washington
 Las Vegas, NV 89101
 (702) 642-1213
 No meeting is held in December. Instead we have
 our annual awards dinner.

POLISHED SLAB ADVERTISING RATES		
AD SIZE	SIX MONTHS RATE	12 MONTHS RATE
<i>Business Card</i>	\$18	\$30
<i>Quarter Page</i>	\$48	\$90
<i>Half Page</i>	\$90	\$170
<i>Full Page</i>	\$150	\$275

