



September 2025

# THE POLISHED SLAB

## SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY



A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUNDS SINCE 1940

VOLUME 85 ISSUE 09

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

**October 2, 2025 - Board Mtg**  
**October 6, 2025 – Genl Mtg**

#### SNGMS Contacts:

www.sngms.net  
sngmsnews@gmail.com  
sngmspresident@gmail.com  
sngmsvicepresident@gmail.com  
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sngmsshowchair@gmail.com  
sngmspublicity@gmail.com  
sngmsjamboreeshowchair@gmail.com

### VIVA LAS VEGAS ROCKS! VENDOR DEADLINE

The final deadline for a booth payment or to reserve a booth is October 1, 2025. Check here for details:

[www.sngms.net/copy-of-viva-las-vegas-rocks-show](http://www.sngms.net/copy-of-viva-las-vegas-rocks-show)

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Greetings -

The time has come to make a decision. We have spent some time the last three meetings discussing the five year initiative relative to the shop and the SNGMS's plans going forward.

In final review, this is an initiative to prepare the SNGMS for a decision regarding what we want to do to improve the SNGMS Lapidary and Educational Center (commonly referred to as the shop).

Our choices are to:

1) do nothing and stay in the size of shop we have today

2) start planning to expand the shop size (which will likely require moving to another location, either in the current building complex or somewhere else) at lease expiration (or possibly sooner if in same complex)

3) start the process of putting together a fund to purchase our own building of appropriate size.

There have been examples of ways to fund raise but in a nutshell, the majority of the funds would be internally recruited (remember from previous research and presentations, we cannot qualify for a mortgage of the size required on our own).

So make an effort to come to the next meeting to participate in making the decision that could guide the SNGMS's future abilities to continue to grow and teach not only new members, but the kids of existing members.

ROCK ON!!

Orville Wiemers, SNGMS President



2025 Field Trips<sup>1</sup> & Events

Field Trip <sup>1</sup> /Event	Date	Location
Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies Convention	September 19 – 21, 2025	Grand Junction, CO
Parking Lot Sale	October 4, 9 am – 4 pm	Desert Art Supplies, 2750 N Green Valley Pkwy, Henderson, NV 89014
Hummingbird Mine for shattuckite <sup>1,2</sup>	October 12, 2025	Tonopah, ARIZONA (not Nevada)
SNGMS Rock Swap/Sale & BBQ	Oct 19, 2025 Swap/Sale 10 am – 2 pm. BBQ starts at 11 am	SNGMS Lapidary & Education Center 3111 South Valley View Blvd., Building E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102
SNGMS Viva Las Vegas Rocks! Gem and Mineral Show	November 7 - 9, 2025	Santa Fe Station Casino, Las Vegas, NV
Awards Banquet	December 7, 2025	Sunset Station Casino, Las Vegas, NV

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

2) Check [https://youtu.be/mGOkQ1\\_X61Y?si=zDNaVRYFi\\_UCNqU](https://youtu.be/mGOkQ1_X61Y?si=zDNaVRYFi_UCNqU) for a video about the Hummingbird Mine

3) Contact Ron Mazz for vendor slot, \$25 members, \$50 non-members (zman8229@gmail.com)

**Rock, Gem & Jewelry Show**  
**Santa Fe Station Casino**  
 4949 N Rancho Dr, Las Vegas, NV 89130



**VIVA LAS VEGAS ROCKS**  
**November 7th, 8th & 9th**

Over 40 Vendors showcasing the finest gem and mineral experience in Las Vegas. Take part in exciting demonstrations of lapidary arts, local geology, and much more. Don't miss this opportunity to discover the fascinating world of gems, minerals, and jewelry. Come add some treasures to your collection, or find gifts for the Holidays!

[www.snvgs.org](http://www.snvgs.org)







**QUARTZSITE MINERALS**

SNGMS Members Receive **20%** Discount



[www.quartzsiteminerals.com](http://www.quartzsiteminerals.com)  
 Visit Our Store At Suite # 1290  
**MEADOWS MALL**  
[quartzsiteminerals@gmail.com](mailto:quartzsiteminerals@gmail.com)  
 702-344-8579

**WHOLESALE / RETAILS**



**Kalifano Warehouse Sale**  
 Wholesale to the public

Join us for our semi annual warehouse sale where we offer the finest crystals, gemstones, fossils, and metal art to the public at wholesale prices.

Sept 26-27-28-29, 2025, 9am - 5 pm all 4 days  
 265 Pilot Rd Las Vegas, NV



## SNGMS Board Meeting Minutes for 9/4/2025

On September 4, 2025, the regular Board of Directors meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 4:05 PM at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop and Education Center by the President.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the July 31, 2025 meeting were approved as corrected.

**Treasurers Report:** The checking account is down for the month due primarily to payment of Viva Las Vegas Rocks show bill. The investment account is essentially unchanged. Funds will be transferred from investments to checking as we are burning quickly through cash. Recommend increase to dues, class fees, or shop fees.

David Ford proposed, seconded by Harvey Bergeron, and approved by the Board that a proposed increase of \$10 to both the individual and family memberships be brought to the membership.

### Unfinished Business:

The 5-year Strategic Plan was briefly discussed by Mary Savage.

Proposed membership fees implementation was discussed and the tri-fold flyer required edits were identified, updating emails, website url, and membership costs.

Lisa Wiemers, as Historian, provided a list of document retention policies that can be incorporated into the SNGMS By-Laws. Mike Kirk will organize a committee to make recommendations on modified By-Laws to be presented to the Board and then to the General Membership for approval.

Google for Nonprofits usage will start to be implemented with addition of relevant persons and by providing written instructions for access.

Orville Wiemers reported on the Cab Machine Wheel Review Team. Procurement of wheels will remain unchanged for now, but testing of alternative wheels and refurbishment alternatives will be considered and tested. For now the machines will be designated for soft or hard materials.

**SNGMS Lapidary Shop Report:** Kerry Wenzl reports that there is extensive trim saw blade damage. Issues with use of equipment and with checking member id to use shop was discussed.

**Viva Las Vegas Rocks Show:** Andrea Packo reports that 39 vendor booths have been sold and 3 reserved out of a total of 61 booths. Facebook ads are being placed.

### New Business:

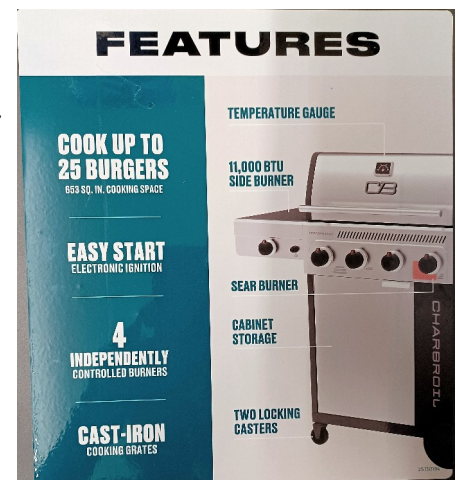
The possibility of online advance class payment was discussed, and the decision was made that it required too much manual intervention to make it work. Advance deposit of funds in shop was recommended instead.

Board meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.

### Brand New Propane BBQ Grill for Auction



Starting bid is \$150. Silent Auction is at the SNGMS Lapidary & Education Center. Auction ends Saturday, September 27, 2025 at noon. Must be present to win. Cash and carry.



## SNGMS General Meeting Minutes for 9/8/2025

On September 8, 2025, the regular meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 6:00 PM by the President. The Secretary was present. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited.

New members and visitors were introduced and welcomed. Tables with show and tell items were pointed out so that attendees could enjoy them.

Volunteers Fawn Gifford, Thomas Boes, and Bud Cranor were acknowledged and thanked.

The minutes of the August 4, 2025 meeting were approved as read.

### Old Business:

**Treasurers Report:** The checking account is down for the month due primarily to payment of Viva Las Vegas Rocks show bill. The investment account is virtually unchanged.

**Kids Club:** Wendy Dresser reported on the Kids Club activities and said thanks to everyone that helped or donated to the club. On September 13, 2025 there will be a field trip to the Dinosaur Discovery Museum in St. George, Utah. During the Viva Las Vegas Rocks show the kids will be doing demonstrations on Saturday and Sunday. Plans are underway for a Halloween party in conjunction with the Eagles and on October 15, 2025 there will be a trip to the Ore Car Mine site for geocaching, rock hounding, and a bar-be-que.

**Field trips:** Wendy Dresser reported on upcoming field trips. See the Slab and emails for future field trip plans.

**Shop Report:** Steve Palecek reported that shop equipment is up and running and encouraged shop participation. Supervisors are needed and training will be provided. Remember to look out for your fellow rock hounds in the shop and call attention to any equipment usage issues.

**Presentation:** Speakers Stephanie Foote and Susan Sotile Hindmarsh, Las Vegas Bead Society on Lovely Beaded Things

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

**Cab Contest:** First place –Lloyd Chayette, second place – Bruce Martin

**Rocky Mountain Federation:** Mary Beth Paladino reported that she will be unable to attend the convention.

**New Business:** Collection of volunteer hours for 2025 has begun. Ron Mazz has sent an email with an attached spreadsheet for members to fill out with their hours and return to Ron.

Ralph Voelker discussed the five-year Strategic Plan and how the funds needed for a building purchase might be achieved.



# Sunshine Report

*from Mary Beth Paladino*



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

Harvey and Rita Bergeron, and Wendy Dresser continue to have some health issues. Marilyn McDougal is suffering from afib. Bill Kogan has heart failure.

**Cliff Jackson**  
**Life Time SNGMS Member**  
**In Memoriam**  
*By Mary Beth Paladino*

It is with a heavy heart that I share the news of the passing of our friend, colleague, and SNGMS Lifetime member, Cliff Jackson. He died on September 5, 2025, succumbing to cancer.

Cliff was a self-professed "army brat." His father was a Lt. Colonel in the U. S. Army. Cliff himself served in the Army and was stationed in Germany during the Vietnam War. Cliff is the father of two beautiful daughters: Kristi Balstad and Wendi Cook.

Cliff came to Nevada from Washington state. He was a CPA by profession, but he had a passion for outdoors. He loved off-roading, sailing, photography and rockhounding to name a few of his favorite hobbies.

When Cliff first came to the club, he mainly collected petrified wood. As with most things, when Cliff was interested in something, he would learn all he could. He mastered identifying and aging petrified wood. He soon branched out into collecting fossils, local rocks and fluorescent rocks.

He became the go-to guy when it came to fluorescence. Cliff's fluorescent collection grew and became museum quality. He joined the Fluorescent Mineral Society and developed connections and friends from all over the U. S. and the world. Cliff shared his knowledge with club members, the Kids club, schools, and the general public. He would take visitors and members night hunting to find awesome fluorescents.

Cliff was enlisted as fieldtrip chairman. He would thoroughly research sites for quality material and safety. Some of the locations were in the middle of nowhere. Cliff would find specimens he liked, share the extras, and would always be there to help others find great samples.

It was an adventure to rockhound with Cliff, whether he took us to incredibly beautiful vistas, an isolated mine dump in the middle of the desert, an abandoned mine, or had to drive on roads that were so full of bumps that you'd be happy for seat belts.

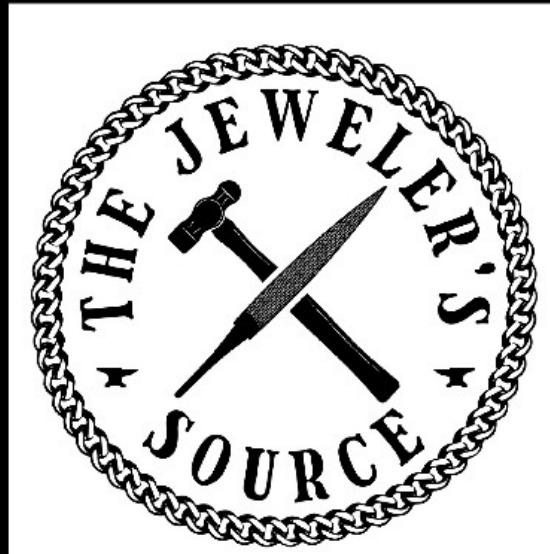
Duane Matters and Cliff were rock brothers, Eagle members and collected for over 20 years together. Many of us were lucky enough to accompany them on some of their expeditions.

Cliff was a character and we each have our own special stories and memorable moments with him. He left a void in the club that will be hard to fill and will be greatly missed.



**Cliff Jackson**  
*Photo courtesy of Jack Toogood*





Members Receive 5% Off

- **JEWELRY SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT**
- **JEWELRY FINDINGS & METALS**
- **LAPIDARY EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES**
- **JEWELRY WORKSHOPS**

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7022 West Charleston Blvd.  
Las Vegas, NV 89117

702-745-1127

[thejewelerssource@gmail.com](mailto:thejewelerssource@gmail.com)

IG - thejewelerssource



SNGMS Meeting Schedules and SNGMS Lapidary & Education Center Hours

SNGMS 2025 Meeting Schedule		
Board Meeting <sup>1</sup>	General Meeting <sup>2</sup>	Kids Club Meeting <sup>3</sup>
		Sep 13 Field Trip, St. George, UT
Oct 2	Oct 6	Oct 12
Oct 30	Nov 3	Nov 16
Dec no meeting, Awards Banquet	Dec no meeting, Awards Banquet	Dec no meeting, Awards Banquet

**LAPIDARY SUPERVISORS WANTED**  
 Volunteer to be a Lapidary Supervisor! Complete the Orientation and Cabochon Classes (or equivalent), and we will train.  
 Contact Chops Wenzl  
 702-378-2205

- 1) Meets at SNGMS Lapidary and Education Center
- 2) Meets at Eagles' Lodge 1<sup>st</sup> 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.
- 4) Text Wendy Dresser, 702-556-2748 to reserve a spot

**Location of the SNGMS Lapidary & Ed Ctr**

**3111 South Valley View Blvd,  
 Building E Suite 125  
 Las Vegas, NV 89102**

Please, **under no circumstances**, park in front of Unit 124 or Unit 126 (the units next to the SNGMS 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.

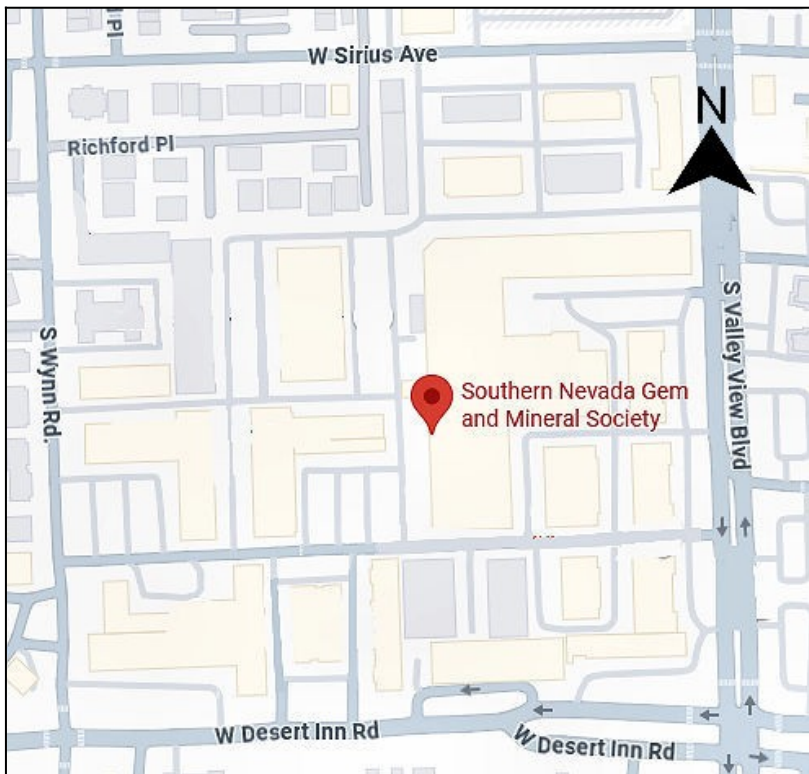
**SNGMS LAPIDARY AND EDUCATION CENTER HOURS\***

Sunday 10 am - 3 pm  
 Monday Closed for general use: Various Classes  
 Tuesday 10 am - 7 pm  
 Wednesday 10 am - 7 pm  
 Thursday 12 - 9 pm  
 Friday 12 - 9 pm  
 Saturday 1 - 6 pm

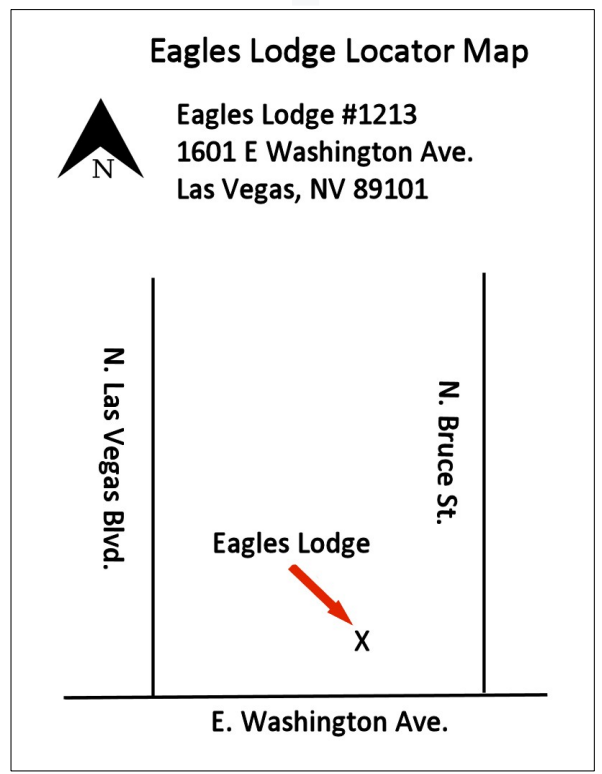
**EQUIPMENT FEES:**  
 All equipment is \$6/hour. Machines are metered, so you only pay for the time the equipment is actually running.

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

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



**Location of SNGMS Lapidary & Education Center**



**Eagles Lodge Locator Map**

**Eagles Lodge #1213  
 1601 E Washington Ave.  
 Las Vegas, NV 89101**



## Lapidary/Jewelry Studio Tips & Tricks

### Perfectly Matched Earring Wires

Excerpted from <https://door44studios.com/how-to-make-perfectly-matched-ear-wires-every-time/>

1. Straighten a length of 20 gauge wire by running it through a pliers with nylon jaws a few times. Once the wire is straight, measure and cut one 4-inch piece of 20 gauge wire.
2. Mark the center point of the wire with a fine-point Sharpie.
3. The key to creating matching ear wires is to make both wires at the same time. Use flat nose pliers to form a sharp 90-degree bend at the center mark of the 4-inch wire. Then fold the wire in half by gradually tightening the bend until the two ends of the wire are parallel.
4. Tighten the fold by squeezing it firmly with the tips of your flat nose pliers.
5. Check the cut ends of your wire to make sure they're even. If not, trim the wire so that both ends are the same length. Lightly sand the ends with sandpaper or an emory board to round the ends of the wires and to remove any sharp edges.
6. Create a small loop for each of the two ear wires. This where you will attach the earring dangle. Create the loop by winding the two loose ends of the wire around the 2 mm step on bail-making pliers until the ends touch the straight length of the wire.
7. Center the wire loops on the 9 mm step -the largest step – on your bail-making pliers.



Step 6



Step 7

#### Equipment & Supplies

20 gauge wire  
 Fine Sharpie marker  
 Ruler  
 Nylon jaw pliers  
 Flat nose pliers  
 Stepped bail-making pliers  
 Sand paper or emory board  
 Flush cutter or jeweler's saw



Step 8

8. Wrap the straight lengths of the wire as far around the 9mm mandrel as you can go to create a large loop.
9. Place the two loose ends of the wire at the center of the 3 mm step (the second step) on your bail-making pliers. Wrap the wire about halfway around the pliers. Make sure this bend is in the opposite direction of the large ear hook you made in Step 8.
10. Use flush cutters or a jeweler's saw to cut off the folded edge of the wire so the two ear wires can separate. Lightly sand the ends with sandpaper or an emory board to round the ends of the wires and to remove any sharp edges.
11. Optionally, you can solder the loops for the earring dangle closed and/or flatten the wires by lightly hammering them against a steel block with a small hammer.



Step 9

CONGRATULATIONS – you just created a pair of matched ear wires!

**Why wasn't the geologist hungry?  
 They'd lost their apatite!**



Finished Matching Ear Wires

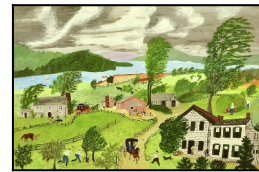


2025 Cabochon Contests

MONTH	2025 CABOCHON STYLE	Contest Winners
January	Impressionism – Monet, Degas, Renior, Cassatt	1 <sup>st</sup> – Del Walkenshaw, 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Bruce Martin, Emlyn Altman, Joel Coombs
February	Cubism – Picasso, Braque, Cezanne, Exter	1 <sup>st</sup> – James Sloan 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Lloyd Chayette, George Stewart
March	Abstract – Mondrain, Rothko, Pollick, O’Keeffe	1st - Lloyd Chayette, 2nd - Jonathan Tredwell
April	Sea Scapes - Friedrich, Mallord, Turner, Sorollo, Hassam	1 <sup>st</sup> – Ralph Voelker 2 <sup>nd</sup> – George Stewart
May	Surrealism – Dali, Kahlo, Lucien Freud, Breton	1st – Lloyd Chayette 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Joel Coombs, Ralph Voelker
June	Architectural –Rodde, Caillebotte, Hadid, Canal	1 <sup>st</sup> – Ralph Voelker 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Lloyd Chayette
July	Expressionism – Kandinsky, Chagall, Macke, Bossi	1 <sup>st</sup> – James Sloane 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Lloyd Chayette, George Stewart
August	Contemporary (any type) – Picasso, Warhol, Murakami, Kapoor, Sherald	1 <sup>st</sup> – Patty Johnson 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Ralph Voelker
September	Fauvism – Matisse, Derain, Roualt, de Vlaminck, Charmy	1 <sup>st</sup> – Lloyd Chayette 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Bruce Martin
October	Landscapes – Carr, Homer, Theibaud, da Vinci	
November	Graffiti – Bansky, Fairey, Halring, Lady Pink	
December	No Contest	

The SNGMS hosts a cabochon contest at our monthly meetings. Bring a cab you have cut that matches that month’s theme. Meeting attendees vote on their favorite cab, and the first and second places winners are announced at the meeting. The first place award is 2 hours of free lapidary time, and the second place winner gets 1 hour of free lapidary time. The October 2025 cabochon theme is “Landscapes.” **Good Luck!**

Landscapes Examples



Grandma Moses



Theibaud



Homer



DaVinci



September 2025 Cabochon Contest Winners  
Left to right: Lloyd Chayette, 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Entry 4;  
Bruce Martin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Entry 5

SNGMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee is searching for candidates to run for SNGMS President. If you are interested, please contact one of these members of the Nominating Committee:

- Peggy Sue Moore ([moorepeggysue@gmail.com](mailto:moorepeggysue@gmail.com))
- Lorrilee Stackhouse ([lorrilee@proton.me](mailto:lorrilee@proton.me))
- Sara Tredwell ([beara86@gmail.com](mailto:beara86@gmail.com))



SNGMS Cabochon Contest Entries, September 2025



BIRTHDAYS

If you have an OCTOBER birthday, Please bring something for the refreshment table at NOVEMBER'S meeting.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Seana Allen, Harvey Bergeron, Ravyn Blackwell, Carla Blair, Michael Bonvino, Darlene Bourland, Debbie Boyce, Colleen Carroll, Ally Dimarucut, Tyler Durden, Nanette Ellis, Briana Furukawa, Carrie Graf, Hayes Griffith, Stephanie Hable, Matt Hale, Nia Hiura, Jenelle Hopkins, Michael Hornholtz, Jerry Hughes, Jan Jordan, Andrea Joseph, Jessica Lash, Barry Lawson, Hosea Ozy Licano, Sue LoFaro, Phillip Luchetta, Lucas Marc, Parker Meyer, Sophia Munson, Rimma Muth, Michael Paladino, Kristina Paumen, Kaylee Pollock, Audrey Purciful, Stephanie Rhein, Judith Ross, James Sanborn, Ann Sprague, (Arthur) Mick Sprott, Drake Stevenson, Sandra Stewart, Gordon Stewart, Sara Tredwell, Tyra Tripp, Jerry Trout, Sharon Webb, Barbara Wysocki

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
September 14, 2025	10 am - noon	\$10	SNGMS Lapidary & Education Ctr 3111 South Valley View Blvd, Building E Suite 125 Las Vegas, NV 89102 Building E Suite 125 Las Vegas NV 89102
October 12, 2025			

Speakers For 2025 General Meetings

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

Date	Speaker	Topic
Oct. 6	Michael Green, UNLV Dept. of History	A History of Mining in Nevada
Nov. 3	-	SNGMS Elections

LAPIDARY SUPERVISORS WANTED

Volunteer to be a Lapidary Supervisor! Complete the Orientation and Cabochon Classes (or equivalent), and we will train.

Contact Chops Wenzl 702-378-2205



**SNGMS Rock Stars Kids Club  
2025 Field Trips and Meetings<sup>1</sup>**

Field Trip/Meeting	Date	Location
Dinosaur Discovery Site Museum Trip <sup>3</sup>	Sep 13	St. George, UT
<b>NO MEETING</b>	<b>Sep 14</b>	
Rock Stars Kids Club Meeting 3- 5 pm	Oct 12	SNGMS Lapidary & Education Center <sup>2</sup>
Halloween Party 12 - 2pm <sup>3</sup>	Oct 18	Eagles Lodge <sup>4</sup>
Viva Las Vegas Rocks Demos by Kids <sup>3</sup>	Nov. 8 & 9	Santa Fe Station Casino
Ore Car Mine Field Trip, 8 am – 2 pm <sup>3</sup>	Nov 15	SNGMS Lapidary & Education Center <sup>2</sup>
	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*
- 4) *Eagles Lodge, 1601 E. Washington Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89101*

**Dinosaur Discovery Site Museum, St. George, Utah**  
 Saturday, September 13th  
 7:00 am (returning approx 6 - 7 pm)  
 RSVP REQUIRED  
 CALL/TEXT WENDY DRESSER AT 702-556-2748

**Halloween Party, Eagles Lodge**  
 Saturday, October 18  
 12:00 - 2:00 pm  
 Eagles Lodge  
 RSVP REQUIRED  
 CALL/TEXT WENDY DRESSER AT 702-556-2748

**Viva Rocks Show at Santa Fe Stations Casino**  
 Friday, Saturday & Sunday November 7, 8 & 9  
 Kids need to sign up to do demos with Wendy  
 RSVP REQUIRED  
 CALL/TEXT WENDY DRESSER AT 702-556-2748

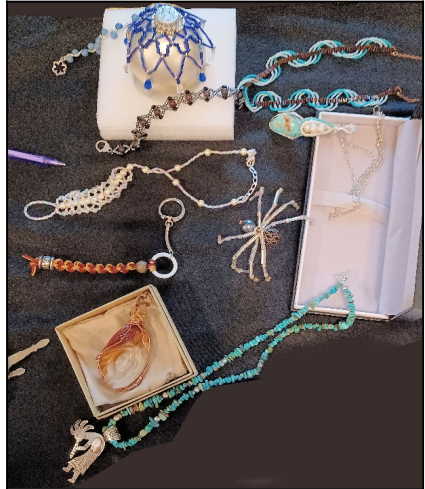
**Ore Car Mine Field Trip**  
 Safety Briefing, Geo Rock Caching, Rock hounding & BBQ!!!  
 Saturday, November 15  
 8:00 am - 2:00 pm  
 RSVP REQUIRED  
 CALL/TEXT WENDY 702-556-2748

**2025 SNGMS Awards Banquet**

Tickets are now on sale for the SNGMS Awards Banquet, Dec. 7, 2025 at Sunset Station Casino. Tickets for members cost \$40. Buy yours at Desert Art Supplies in Henderson, or the SNGMS Lapidary & Ed. Center Wednesdays 9 am-12 pm. Sale ends Nov. 3, 2025

**AWARDS BANQUET AUCTION DONATIONS**

Donations of lapidary-related items, hand-made jewelry, cabochons, etc. are being collect at the SNGMS Lapidary and Education Center. Please leave your donation with a Lapidary Supervisor. Be sure to include a label with the donation that lists your name so you can be acknowledged.



Beaded Work Examples from Presentation by the Las Vegas Beading Society at SNGMS September 2025 Meeting



## SNGMS 2025 VOLUNTEER STAFF

Contact any Director to volunteer for a position, or a Committee Chair to offer to help on their committee.  
SNGMS 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICE	DIRECTOR	EMAIL	PHONE
President	Orville Wiemers	sngmspresident@gmail.com	702-743-3277
Vice-President	Ron Mazz	zman8229@gmail.com	586-914-4130
Secretary	Lorrilee Stackhouse	lorrilee@proton.me	702-817-5602
Treasurer	Dave Ford	sngmstreasurer@gmail.com	831-521-0214
Parliamentarian	Michael Kirk	vpoker81@cox.net	702-433-4146
Past President	Andrea Packo	aspacko@gmail.com	702-279-7679
Three Year Board	Harvey Bergeron	harveyrita@gmail.com	
Two Year Board	Jean Chayette	jalmiz201@gmail.com	714-474-6384
One Year Board	Bob Belcher	f35fighter@yahoo.com	702-210-9612

## SNGMS 2025 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

COMMITTEE	CHAIR	EMAIL	PHONE
Communication	Del Walkenshaw	sngmsnews@gmail.com	702-451-8040
Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies	Mary Beth Paladino		702-255-1647
Media Committee	Kendra White	kendrarubywhite@gmail.com	
Field Trip	Jonathan Tredwell	sngmsfieldtrip@gmail.com	725-377-0166
Lapidary Manager	Chops Weinzl		702-378-2205
Historian	Lisa Wiemers	lowiem@embarqmail.com	
Hospitality	Mary Beth Paladino		702-255-1647
Inventory	Ron Mazz	zman8229@gmail.com	586-914-4130
Membership	Claudia Crouse	ccrouse295@gmail.com	
Newsletter	Mary Savage	lasvegassilversmithing@protonmail.com	
New Member Liaison	Amber Palecek		702-343-7150
Program (Speakers)	Romy Umholtz	romyvision@gmail.com	
Raffle	DiAnn Lawson	diannmariehayes@yahoo.com	702-577-7183
Refreshments	Richard and Elizabeth Nelson	richard_nelso89@hotmail.com	
Rock Stars	Wendy Dresser	wndresser@gmail.com	702-556-2748
Scholarship	Debbie Bucknam	grandmadeb10@gmail.com	
Spring Jamboree Show	Orville Weimers	sngmsjamboreeshowchair@gmail.com	702-743-3277
Sunshine	Mary Beth Paladino		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

**What did the rock say when it stubbed its toe?**

**Aw schist!**



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50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ore Car Mining Claim

Doris Currington was the person who located the claim by pacing out the boundaries for the Clark County Gem Collectors (CCGC). The tuff that was the basis for the claim was piled where the sign for the claim is currently located. The tuff has been crushed by foot and vehicle traffic, and is no longer in a pile. The Ore Car claim is a lode claim. This means the claim boundaries can run in any direction to follow the mineral lode (placer claims can only run north-south).

Doris said this about the claim: "Before we filed the mining claim way back when the ore car mine site it was called the 'Potato Patch.' Just before you went down into the wash on the left side of [the] road and across [the] wash were small nodules. Like Potatoes. They were swirl agate. Long gone by the [19]60's."

Initially, the mine was a long, open trench about two feet deep. For safety and liability reasons, the CCGC covered it. Roy Beeson, Don Van Hoy, and Doris Currington began the tradition of placing unwanted rocks from their collections at the mine for others to take. The Las Vegas Public Broadcasting System channel, KLVX Channel 10, produced a show about the claim for the Outdoor Nevada program sometime before 2017.

Undated Photo of Doris Currington  
Photo courtesy of Mary Beth Paladino

**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](http://www.hitechdiamond.com).



## Mineral Musings

### Jasper

*Excerpted from:*

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jasper>

<https://rockseeker.com/different-types-of-jasper/>

[www.jewelryshoppingguide.com/a-quick-guide-on-jasper-gemstone/](http://www.jewelryshoppingguide.com/a-quick-guide-on-jasper-gemstone/)

Jasper is a mineral that is primarily composed of silica. Other trace elements and impurities give it unique colors and patterns. Jasper is a member of the chalcedony family and is usually opaque. Jasper is a common mineral found in many locations around the world, including the United States, Australia, Brazil, Egypt, and India. The word jasper means "spotted or speckled stone," and comes from the Old French word "jaspre."

The colors of jasper are usually red, yellow, brown or green, and rarely blue. Red is the most common color and is due to iron. During formation of jasper, silica-rich water flows through porous sedimentary rocks, and over time, the silica accumulates and forms deposits. The silica can come from volcanic ash, marine organisms, and groundwater.

Jasper can also form through silicification, which occurs when organic material, such as wood or bone, is replaced by silica. This can happen when the organic material is buried in sedimentary rock, and silica-rich groundwater flows through the rock. Then the organic material is replaced with chalcedony.

So what's the difference between jasper and agate? Jasper and agate are both made of quartz. Both jasper and agate are varieties of chalcedony. These gemstones have very fine grains and are smooth and shiny. Agate is translucent and has banded patterns, while jasper is opaque and has a variety of patterns, including bands, spots and striations. One way to tell the two apart is by holding a light behind the stone. If the light shines through, it's an agate. If it doesn't, it's jasper.

There are several types of jasper. Landscape jaspers, or picture jaspers, are a type of jasper that look like (lol, surprisingly) landscapes when cut. The most famous type is Owyhee Picture Jasper (pronounced Oh-WAH-hee), which looks like rolling, brown hills under a blue sky. The stones are found in the Owyhee mountains on the Idaho-Oregon border.



Owyhee Jasper

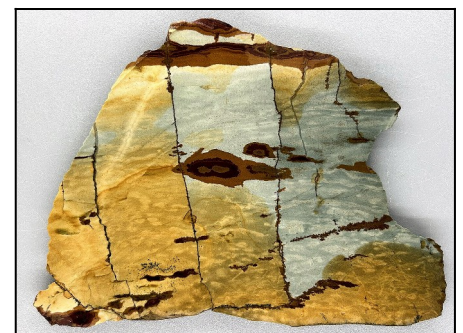


Brecciated Jasper

Brecciated jasper looks like broken stones roughly glued back together. They're most often found in areas that are prone to earthquakes, such as California. Lavic Jasper, found near Ludlow, California can be brecciated.

Other types of jaspers include mookaite from Australia, poppy jasper, and orbicular jasper.

The word "jasper" is often used to describe any colorful stone that probably is silica-rich. While beautiful, they're not a jasper! This includes rain forest jasper (rhyolite), bumblebee jasper (complex mineral mix that includes arsenic), Dalmatian jasper (rhyolite), and crocodile jasper (another rhyolite sometimes mistakenly ided as a stromatolite fossil).



Dead Camel Jasper  
From Dead Camel Mountain Range, NV



## September 2025 Class Schedule

(see page 10 for New Member Orientation Schedule)

Class	Instructor	Date and Time	Cost	Location	Contact
Silver Smithing	Bud Cranor	Mon. Sep. 15, 6:30-9:30 pm Mon. Sep. 29, 6:30-9:30 pm	\$25	SNGMS Lapidary & Ed. Cntr <sup>1</sup>	bacranor@yahoo.com
Clock Class	Amber and Steve Palecek	Sept 21 – 23, 3 -9 pm.- <b>limited class size</b>	\$35	SNGMS Lapidary & Ed. Cntr <sup>1</sup>	Text 702-343-7150 for reservation
Faceting	Tom Kidwell	Saturdays 9 am - 1 pm	\$15.00 for the class plus \$5.00 for instructor fuel fund	SNGMS Lapidary & Ed. Cntr <sup>1</sup>	moorepeggysue@gmail.com for reservations - must commit to 3 consecutive classes
Cabochon Making	Beth Jones	Saturdays 1 pm – <b>class limited to 3 people</b>	\$10	SNGMS Lapidary & Ed. Cntr <sup>1</sup>	punkyjones@hotmail.com for reservations

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](https://www.instagram.com/lvsilversmithing)



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



Student’s copper butterfly  
 Photo courtesy of Bella Romero



Cabochon Made at the SNGMS Lapidary & Education Center

### Awards Banquet Auction Items Needed

For the annual SNGMS Awards Banquet, please donate your new or gently used items. A table has been set up at the SNGMS Lapidary and Education Center where you can leave your donations.

Hand made items are preferred.  
 Tools accepted.

Thank you!



### Viva Las Vegas Rocks Display Cases

Display cases are available to SNGMS members to show off their collections or talents at the Viva show. Displaying your work or collections is a great opportunity for you to strut your stuff to other members, rock hounds, friends, and the general public. Contact Orville & Lisa Wiemers at [lowiem@embarqmail.com](mailto:lowiem@embarqmail.com) for more information.



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](http://www.sngms.net)  
 Membership is open to anyone with an interest in:  
 Rocks, Gems, Geology, Fossils, Lapidary Arts or  
 Silver smithing  
 Annual Dues: Individual - \$25; Family - \$35  
 Meetings start 6 pm on the first Monday of the  
 month at:  
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 (702) 642-1213  
 No meeting is held in December. Instead we have  
 our annual awards dinner.

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