



THE POLISHED SLAB

SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY



June 2026

A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUNDS SINCE 1940

VOLUME 86 ISSUE 6

UPCOMING MEETINGS

SNGMS Board Meeting Jun 29 2026
SNGMS General Mtg. Jul 6, 2026

Ginger Ruggiero New Editor of The Polished Slab

SNGMS welcomes Ginger Ruggiero, the new Polished Slab editor! With a profound passion for the geological world and an impressive eye for detail, Ginger promises to bring a fresh perspective to our community publication. You can contact her at newsletter@sngms.net.

We look forward to her creative flair!

Thank you, Ginger for volunteering!

SNGMS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

You Can Help!

Contact Ron Mazz

zman8229@gmail.com or 586-914-4130

Volunteers are needed for:

**- Viva Las Vegas Rocks gem & mineral show,
November 6-8, 2026**

- Publicity Campaigns, including social media

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Lapidary and Education Center Upgrades

Facility upgrades are coming to the LEC! WIFI has been installed!



WIFI Installation at the SNGMS LEC



2026 Field Trips¹ & Events

Field Trip ¹ /Event	Date	Location
Dig for Wildfire Bubble Opal	June 6	Milford, Utah pay to dig
Brenda Jasper	August TBA	Brenda, AZ
Blush Falls quartz and pastelite	September TBA	Henderson, NV
Amethyst	October, TBA	Purple Blessings Mine, CA
Jasper and Agate	October, TBA	Cactus Joe Mine, Blue Diamond, NV
Viva Las Vegas Rocks! Gem & Mineral Show	Nov. 6 - 8, 2026	Santa Fe Station Casino, Las Vegas, NV
Awards Banquet	Dec 6, 6 – 10 pm	Las Vegas National Golf Club, 1911 E Desert Inn Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89169

1) Field trip destinations, dates, and times are subject to change. Contact Jonathan Tredwell (fieldtrip@sngms.net)



**SNGMS Booth at the Henderson, NV Art Festival
May 9 – 10, 2026**

Left to right: Mary Beth Paladino, Wendy Dresser, and
two Kids Club members
Photo courtesy of Dave Ford

Henderson Art Festival May 9 – 10, 2026

At the Henderson Art Festival, around 200 visitors stopped by the SNGMS booth to discover more about our organization and our activities. A huge shoutout to Gavin and his mother, Heather, for showcasing the art of rock painting! We also appreciate Peggy Sue Moore for her wire wrapping demonstrations and Gary Webb for his beading demonstrations. Interest was so high that we ran out of flyers, and many people are excited about the upcoming November 2026 Viva Las Vegas Rocks gem and mineral show. This successful booth was made possible by our amazing volunteers: Wendy Dresser, Lisa and Orville Wiemers, Chops and Kim Wenzl, Mary Beth Paladino, and Dave Ford. Thank you all for shining a spotlight on SNGMS to the public!



**Left to Right: Bud Cranor, Ralph Voelker
Royston Mine Field Trip
April 2026**



**Backhoe at Royston Mine Field Trip
April 2026**



**Peridot Class at
Rockhounding Nation**



SNGMS Board Meeting Minutes for May 18, 2026

The meeting began at 4:03 pm. All board members were present except Ralph Voelker who was excused. The pledge of allegiance was recited. The minutes from the March 30, 2026 board meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report: The Boulder City Spring Jamboree Gem and Mineral Show (May 2 – 3, 2026) received \$2000 in cash donations. Financial reports will be available in June 2026. A certificate of deposit (CD) comes due on June 9, 2026. Dave Ford moved to renew the CD for one year as another CD or as a treasury bill. Orville Wiemers moved to renew the maturing CD as another CD or a treasury bill. Ron Mazz seconded. The motion passed. At the Henderson, Nevada Art Festival (May 9 – 10, 2026), approximately 200 people visited the SNGMS booth.

Unfinished Business

LEC WIFI and Cameras: Tyra Tripp reported the current SNGMS contract with Brinks costs \$40/month. To add a motion sensor to the rollup door and two cameras with audio will cost \$45/month with a \$129 one-time initialization fee. The installation is scheduled for May 28, 2026. WIFI will be provided by Cox at \$90/month for 24 months, or \$72/month if the billing is on autopay. Cox has not yet provided an installation schedule.

Bylaws: Mary Savage moved to ask the SNGMS membership to vote on updating the bylaws to omit reading of meeting minutes if they are provided prior to the following meetings. Orville Wiemers seconded. No one else voted.

Membership Software: Mary Savage provided an update on the search for membership software.

Gem and Mineral Show Updates: Orville Wiemers reported \$8900 was spent on the 2026 Boulder City Spring Jamboree. \$8000 was budgeted. More money was spent than budgeted because more vendors than expected signed up. The event netted \$10,931. This includes \$1089 in cash donations.

New Business

LEC Users: Usage of the LEC by SNGMS members is under review by the Board of Directors.

Media: Lorrilee Stackhouse, the SNGMS webmaster, was present and emphasized the importance of the Board and committee chairs to use their sngms.net email accounts instead of personal accounts. Orville Wiemers suggested asking Thomas Boes to give board members a gmail tutorial. Mike Yslas suggested streaming general meetings.

Volunteers: Ron Mazz led a discussion of the effectiveness of volunteer recruitment via the Slab, email blasts, web site, meeting announcements, text messages, and in-person requests. Adding volunteer positions to SNGMS membership forms was discussed.

Online Payments: Lorrilee Stackhouse, SNGMS Webmaster, discussed Zeffy for non-profits. This is an online credit card processing company that does not charge any fees to non-profits. Dave Ford estimated using Zeffy would save about \$500 annually in credit card fees. Mary Savage moved to use Zeffy on a trial basis, Orville Wiemers seconded, the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm.

SNGMS General Meeting Minutes for June 1, 2026

The SNGMS General meeting began at 6:00 pm. The pledge of allegiance was recited. New members were introduced. Members were asked to indicate if they had items for Show and Tell. A door prize drawing was held. Michael Kirk donated the prizes of solar system gem sets. Orville Wiemers thanked Spring Jamboree volunteers and held a raffle, awarding prizes to volunteers who donated at least four hours of time to the Jamboree. . The secretary read the May 4, 2026 General Meeting Minutes. The minutes were accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report: Dave Ford reported that SNGMS received \$2000 in cash donations and earned \$120 in short term interest. The checking account balance increased by \$3400 for the month, and \$11,000 for the year.

Kids Club: Wendy Dresser reported the Kids Club will meet at the LEC on Sunday, June 14, 2026 from 3-5 pm to work on the Earth Resources badge. There will be a field trip on Saturday, July 11, 2026 to the Children's Discovery Museum in Las Vegas.



Lapidary and Education Center Report: Mike Yslas reported the LEC is staffed to cover upcoming vacations. He asked members to treat LEC equipment gently and emphasized that LEC supervisors are available to assist LEC users. He mentioned the LEC alarm system now has WIFI.

Field Trips: Jonathan Tredwell reported 13 members signed up for the opal field trip to Milford Utah. If you want to go on the trip but have not yet signed up, you need to do so by Tuesday June 2, 2026. After collecting opals, there will be opportunities to collect pyrite and Picasso stone. Jonathan will scout other areas near Milford for other collecting sites. In September 2026 there will be a field trip to the Blush Falls Mine In Henderson, NV to collect amethyst, hematite, and calcite.

Speakers: Romy Umholtz reviewed upcoming speakers. She introduced Tim Ruzic, the audio-visual wrangler for presentations who brings. Mike Yslas spoke about Rockhounding Nation, a brick and mortar facility in Las Vegas that started from a Facebook group. Jonathan Tredwell played a video, narrated by Sara Tredwell, about Blush Falls Mine.

Birthdays: Tyra Tripp acknowledged June birthdays and led the singing of Happy Birthday.

Sunshine Report: Mary Beth Paladino provided the Sunshine Report. Mike Wisniewski died on May 25, 2026 from a stroke. Please send condolences to Gail Wisniewski, 294 Telu road, Linwood, MI 48634. Lloyd Chayette and Song Hageman are having knee problems. Ken Martin is not well. Suzy Keller recovered from pneumonia, but is having other issues. Wendy Dresser's husband is out of the hospital and has been diagnosed with a hereditary heart condition. Tyra Tripp's brother, L.D. Tripp a former SNGMS member, is in the hospital.

Federation Report: Mary Beth Paladino reported that she and Ron Mazz plan to represent the SNGMS at the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies convention in Tulsa, OK. Field trips for blastoids, fossils, and agates will be available. If you plan to attend the convention, please let Mary Beth Paladino know (702-255-1647). Jenelle Hopkins has been making ribbons for the convention. Tyra Tripp asked the SNGMS membership for approval to cover Mary Beth's travel expenses. Orville Wiemers made the motion, Wendy Dresser seconded, the motion carried.

American Lands Initiative for the Mojave National Preserve: The American Lands Initiative may involve road closures which will prevent access to California rock collecting sites within the Mojave National Preserve. The reasons for potential closures may include inadequate staffing at the federal level to patrol the roads plus concern about desert tortoise habitat. However, commercial interests may oppose road closures. The public comment period for the Initiative has not yet begun. More information should be available at the July 2026 SNGMS general meeting.

Henderson Art Festival: Mary Beth Paladino reported that rock samples were passed out to kids at the festival. Mary Beth Paladino was invited to give a presentation at Mountain View Christian School which was attended by 40 students. The letters of appreciation from the students were fabulous. Mary Beth reminded SNGMS members their rock donations for the Kids Club are often the highlight of an events for kids.

Cabochon Contest: Ralph Voelker took first place with entry 7, and Lloyd Chayette took second place with entry 6.

Centennial Hills Active Adult Center: Volunteer are needed to staff a SNGMS information booth on July 1, 2026 at the Centennial Hills Active Adult Center. Contact Tyra Tripp (president@sngms.net) to volunteer.

Classes: Amber and Steve Palecek will offer a clock class on Sunday June 28, 2026 at 4 pm with a followup session on Monday June 29, 2026, time to be determined. Text 702-343-7150 for a reservation.

Viva Las Vegas Rocks Show Update: Elizabeth Nelson reported \$9000 in vendor fees have been collected to date. At present, 11 center vendor booths are available, and 3 side booths. Volunteers are needed.

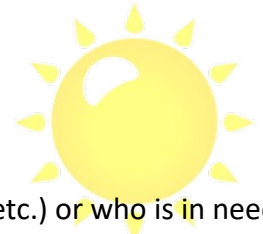
Membership Report: Sara Tredwell reported there are 577 adult members and 94 child members. The membership software analysis is expected to be complete by July 2026.

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 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 text Beth Jones (702-505-5819). See page 4 for this month's Sunshine Report.

Unearth Your Next Treasure at a Massive Gem & Bead Sale!

(paid advertisement)

Ready to spark some creativity? Join us for a dazzling treasure hunt featuring an incredible array of cabochons, precision-faceted stones, lustrous pearls, and unique beads. Whether you're a seasoned jeweler or just starting out, you'll find everything you need! Cash and Zelle payments accepted.

When: June 13, 2026, 8 am – 2 pm (no early birds, please)

Where: 25 Bighorn Station, Henderson, NV 89012

Don't let these gems slip away! Come browse, buy, and be inspired. See you there!

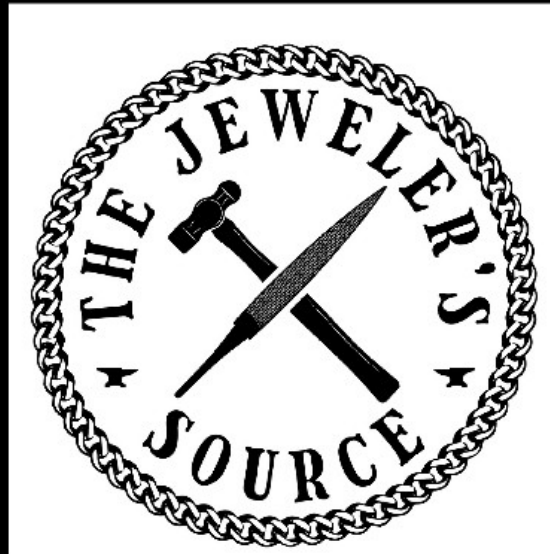


Left to right: Mike Yslas and Jonathan Tredwell at the SNGMS BBQ



Chef Extraordinaire, Dave Ford at the SNGMS BBQ





Members Receive 5% Off

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Las Vegas, NV 89117

702-745-1127

thejewelerssource@gmail.com

IG - thejewelerssource



SNGMS Meeting Schedules and SNGMS Lapidary & Education Center Hours

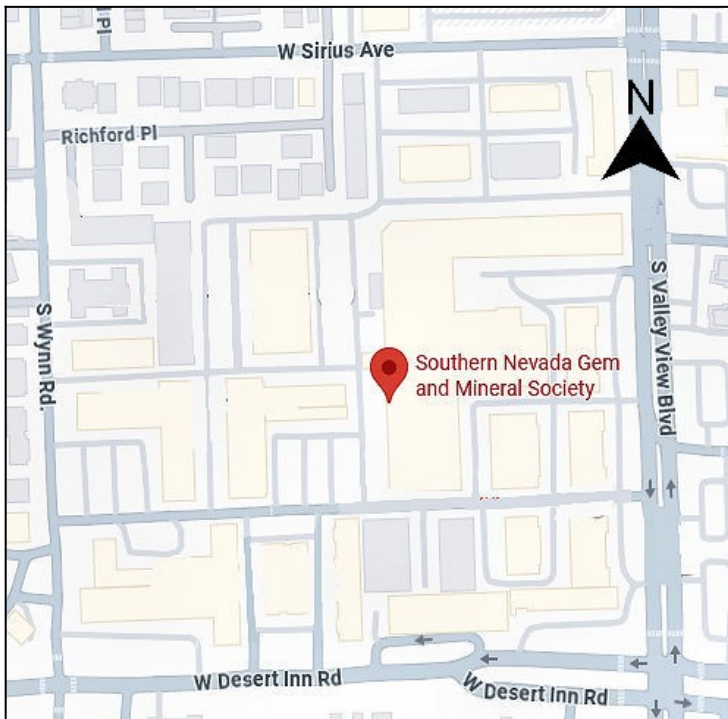
SNGMS 2025 – 2026 Meeting Schedule		
Board Meeting ¹	General Meeting ²	Kids Club Meeting ¹
May 18, 2026	Jun 1, 2026	Jun 14, 2026
Jun 29, 2026	Jul 6, 2026	Jul 12, 2026
Jul 27, 2026	Aug 3, 2026	Aug 9, 2026
Aug 31, 2026	Sep 14, 2026	Sep 13, 2026
Sep 28, 2026	Oct 5, 2026	Oct 11, 2026
Oct 26, 2026	Nov 2, 2026	Nov 8, 2026
Nov. 23, 2026		
Dec no meeting, Awards Banquet	Dec no meeting, Awards Banquet	Dec no meeting, Awards Banquet

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 field 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



SNGMS LAPIDARY AND EDUCATION CENTER HOURS*

Sunday Closed for general use: Various Classes

Monday Closed for general use: Various Classes

Tuesday 10 am - 7 pm

Wednesday 10 am - 7 pm

Thursday 12 - 9 pm

Friday 12 - 9 pm

Saturday 1 - 7 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

3111 South Valley View Blvd,

Building E Suite 125

Las Vegas, NV 89102



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



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(Select Items)**

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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	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	
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	



SNGMS June 2026 Cabochon Contest Winners

Left to right: Lloyd Chayette 2nd place Entry 6
Ralph Voelker 1st place Entry 7

A tour of a volcano would really magma day.



SNGMS June 2026 Cabochon Contest Entries



BIRTHDAYS

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

JUNE BIRTHDAYS



Susan Berger, Alicia Blando, Thomas Boes, Glenn Carlson, Helen Carlson,
Kwai Ping Chan, Henrik Christensen, John Cox, Bud Cranor, Claudia Crouse,
Andrew Dalessio, Juliann Deason-Poupard, Robert Denny, Melissa Franco,
Bruce Furukawa, Tracy Hassett, Sheri Johnson, Shannon Jones, Juin Daniel Jung,
Denny Kim, Michael Kirk, Joseph Labeau, Jason Lee, Linda Martin,
Terral Matsumoto, Alexis McCaw, Patrick McDonough, Johnny Morales,
Clint Morley, Amanda Mowry, Brian Mowry, Wayne Muth, Cassidy Osborne-Butler, Linda Overby,
Mary Beth Paladino, Vanessa Payne, Robert Riemer, Jasmine Roofe, Gail Seidner, Summer Shakespeare,
Jon Thiriot, David Tyree, Celeste Wade, Andrea Warzlow, Harvey Weaver, Ila Wills, Gail Wisniewski, Tina Younts



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 June 15, 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
07/06/26	Orville Wiemers	Unearthed: Raw Beauty exhibit at LA Natural History Museum
08/03/26	Peter Welty	Faceting
09/14/26	Wendy Dresser	Volunteering
10/5/2026	John Anderson	Gold Seekers



Fossil Focus: Stickleback Fish

Stickleback fish live in the ocean off the Pacific coast of the U.S and in nearby freshwater.

In prehistoric times, there were freshwater connections between the Pacific coast and the Great Basin in Nevada.

Stickleback fish migrated into the Great Basin. *Gasterosteus doryssus* is an extinct species of freshwater stickleback that lived in the Great Basin during the Miocene. It is known from thousands of articulated fossil skeletons in diatomite deposits of the Truckee Formation near Hazen, Nevada. *G. doryssus* evolved rapidly in response to environmental change. The changes show in the fossils. The isolation of *G. doryssus* from coastal sticklebacks, in an ecosystem with few predators, led to weaker armor than seen in the modern three-spined stickleback.

Great Basin Stickleback Fish Fossil

Smithsonian Natural History Museum

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

Field Trip/Meeting	Date	Location
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) SNGMS Lapidary & Education Ctr. 3111 South Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Ste 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102

3) Eagles Lodge, 1601 E. Washington, Las Vegas, NV 89101

**Member Spotlight
Evan Plumleigh
LEC Supervisor**

Evan Plumleigh is one of those rare specimens, a native Las Vegan! Although he grew up here, his family traveled far afield for vacations. During a trip to Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia at age 9, Evan was entranced by a silver smithing demonstration. He was so enthusiastic that his mom arranged for him to take silver smithing (at age 9!) from legendary SNGMS smith, Merle Staub, at the Reed Whipple Cultural Center.* Evan's interests changed after a couple of years, but he began smithing again as an adult.



Evan Plumleigh

After he had kids, Evan looked for a challenging hobby they could do together. He settled on rock hounding and joined SNGMS after attending one meeting and going to the Ore Car mining claim. One day he came to the SNGMS Lapidary and Education Center (LEC) with his kids to work just as the supervisor, Andrea Kincannon, was leaving. She explained the LEC was closing early because a supervisor was not available and asked if Evan was interested in becoming a supervisor. Evan said "yes," and the rest is history!

Evan loves agate jasper, especially Idaho Sunset jasper. His favorite part of SNGMS is the LEC. He says it's what we do best – engaging the community, and sharing equipment, rocks, and expertise. His hopes for SNGMS are to keep the best of our traditions, specifically land stewardship and sharing lapidary expertise. Increasing the use of online payments, credit card payments, and social media with emphasis on Facebook are especially important for modernization.

*Mary Beth Paladino and Jack Toogood also took silver smithing classes from Merle.



Idaho Sunset Jasper
Photo courtesy of Evan Plumleigh



Sterling Silver Ring by Evan Plumleigh
Photo courtesy of Evan Plumleigh



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	president@sngms.net	702-493-2503
Vice-President	Ron Mazz	vicepresident@sngms.net	586-914-4130
Secretary	Mary Savage	secretary@sngms.net	
Treasurer	Dave Ford	treasurer@sngms.net	831-521-0214
Parliamentarian	Michael Kirk	parliamentarian@sngms.net	702-433-4146
Past President	Orville Wiemers	pastpresident@sngms.net	702-743-3277
Three Year Board	Ralph Voelker	boardmember3@sngms.net	
Two Year Board	Harvey Bergeron	boardmember2@sngms.net	
One Year Board	Jean Chayette	boardmember1@sngms.net	714-474-6384

SNGMS 2026 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

COMMITTEE	CHAIR	EMAIL	PHONE
AV Wrangler	Timothy Ruzic		
Communication	Del Walkenshaw	sngmsnews@gmail.com	702-451-8040
Field Trip	Jonathan Tredwell	fieldtrip@sngms.net	725-377-0166
Fundraising	OPEN		
Google Manager	Thomas Boes	googlemanager@sngms.net	
Historian	Lisa Wiemers	historian@sngms.net	
Inventory	Ron Mazz	vicepresident@sngms.net	586-914-4130
Kids Club	Thomas Boes	thomas.boes@sngms.net	
Lapidary Manager	Mike Yslas	info@rockhoundingnation.com	562-242-4189
Media Committee	Kendra White	kendrarubywhite@gmail.com	
Meeting Greeter/Hospitality	Sara Bachmura		
Membership	Claudia Crouse	membership@sngms.net	
Newsletter	Ginger Ruggiero	newsletter@sngms.net	
New Member Liaison	Amber Palecek		702-343-7150
Program (Speakers)	Romy Umholtz	romyvision@gmail.com	
Publicity	OPEN		
Raffle/Door Prizes	Barry and DiAnn Lawson	diannmariehayes@yahoo.com	702-577-7183
Refreshments	Richard and Elizabeth Nelson	richard_nelso89@hotmail.com	
Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies	Mary Beth Paladino		
Scholarship	Thomas Boes	thomas.boes@sngms.net	
Spring Jamboree Show	Orville Wiemers	sngmsjamboreeshowchair@gmail.com	702-743-3277
Sunshine	Beth Jones	punkyjones@hotmail.com	702-505-5819
Viva Las Vegas Rocks Show	Andrea Packo	showchairviva@sngms.net	702-279-7679
Webmaster	Lorilee Stackhouse	webmaster@sngms.net	702-817-5602

More LEC Supervisors Needed

Please sign up with Mike Yslas at info@rockhoundingnation.com or 562-242-4189

Flexible schedules including floaters, training provided



SNGMS CORPORATE SPONSORS



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**HI-TECH DIAMOND DISCOUNT**

Hi-Tech Diamond is an online seller of cabbing supplies and equipment. They offer a 10% discount to SNGMS members, friends, and families on everything EXCEPT machines, gift cards, and repairs. The discount is applied when you enter the discount code **SNGMS** at checkout. The code must be manually entered at checkout, it is NOT an automatic discount! The Hi-Tech website is www.hitechdiamond.com.



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



**VIVA LAS VEGAS
ROCKS**

VENDORS, DISPLAYS, DOOR PRIZES AND MORE!



JUNE 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 June 8, 6:30-9:30 pm Mon. June 22, 6:30-9:30 pm	\$35	SNGMS Lapidary & Ed. Cntr ¹	MUST txt 702-526-8003 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 ¹	moorepeggy@me.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	MUST txt 702-505-5819 for reservation
Intro to Digital Marketing	Mike Yslas	Tues. June 2, 7 – 8 pm	Free	SNGMS Lapidary & Ed. Cntr ¹	info@rockhoundingnation.com
Intro to BLM Mining Claims	Mike Yslas	Tues. June 16, 7 - 8 pm	Free	SNGMS Lapidary & Ed. Cntr ¹	info@rockhoundingnation.com

- 1) 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102
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
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Mineral Musing

Dating Archeological Artifacts through Measurements of Obsidian Hydration

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Obsidian_hydration_dating

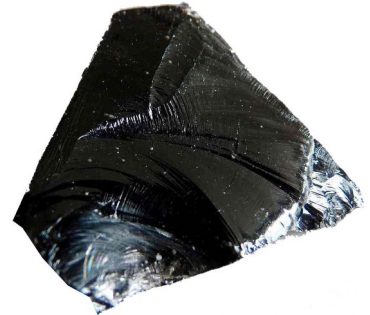
www.thoughtco.com/obsidian-hydration-problematic-dating-technique-172000

<https://maturango.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Obsidian-Hydration-Dating.5.06.pdf>

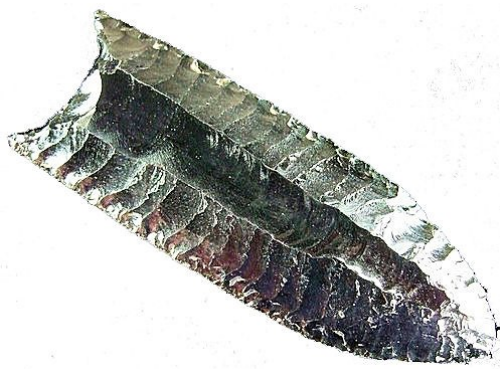
https://handwiki.org/wiki/Chemistry:Obsidian_hydration_dating

By measuring the amount of water in obsidian, the age of an archaeological artifact made of obsidian can be estimated. This is called obsidian hydration dating (OHD).

Obsidian is a volcanic glass that was used by prehistoric people to make stone tools. The tools included arrowheads, spear points, knives, and other cutting tools. The tools were made by carefully breaking off pieces of rock (knapping) to create sharp edges. Obsidian is found all over the world, and was used by stone tool makers because it is easy to work with, it is very sharp when broken, and it comes in a variety of colors. Black and red are the most common colors, but gray, green, lavender, and brown are also found. Translucency varies from clear to opaque, and banded or mossy color arrangements are common. Gas bubbles, chemical variation, oxidation, or incorporation of foreign material into still liquid lava all affect the appearance of obsidian.



Raw Obsidian
etsy.com



Folsom Spear Point from Nevada
Made of Obsidian
ebay.com

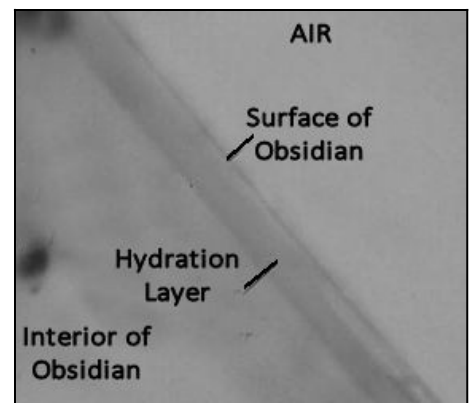
Irving Friedman and Robert Smith of the U.S. Geological Survey developed OHD in the 1960s. Their work focused on obsidians from archaeological sites in western North America.

The dating method works because when obsidian is exposed to air, it absorbs water at a predictable rate. When a raw piece of obsidian is fractured, there is usually less than one percent water present. Over time, water slowly diffuses into the artifact forming a narrow hydration layer or band that can be seen and measured with many different imaging techniques. The size of the band can be measured with optical microscopes, secondary ion mass spectrometry, and infra red photoacoustic spectroscopy. To use obsidian hydration for dating, the conditions that the sample has been exposed to and its origin must be understood or compared to samples of a known age.

OHD is used extensively to date prehistoric sites and sites from prehistory in the Great Basin area. It's an effective technique for artifacts from deserts because the low humidity and high temperatures lead to a slower hydration rate, allowing for more precise measurements of the hydration band over time.

Obsidian Hydration Layer Shown Under a Microscope

https://link.springer.com/referenceworkentry/10.1007%2F978-94-007-6326-5_39-1



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

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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.

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