

The Polished Slab

VOLUME 67, ISSUE 3 A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUNDS SINCE 1940 MARCH 2007

President's Message

First of all, I would like to say welcome to all of our new members. I hope that everyone enjoyed the talk given by Greg Burke, our guest speaker for March. It was good to see such a large turnout of members and guests. Thank you to all who were able to attend. I hope to have more information on our workshop by the time you read this.

Our next meeting is April 2nd, we should have the shop ready by then. I would like to have club participation at First Friday for April 6th. I would like to have the geode saws set up, mineral sales, at least one display case, and someone to do cabochon demos, as well as a membership table. Saturday, April 7th is the Easter picnic and rock swap at Sunset Park; bring your favorite dish, and any rocks you might want to swap. Also in April is our Annual Burro Creek Trip. The group campsite is reserved from Wednesday the 11th, through Sunday the 15th at noon. The potluck dinner will be on Saturday night as usual. In May, I would like to have a "grand opening" event at the workshop; complete with media coverage and a ribbon cutting ceremony.

We also need to think about the awards banquet for this year and reserve a place to hold it. If anyone has any suggestions, or would like to volunteer to be banquet chairman for this year please give me a call or an email. We have lots of fun things happening this year and I think it is going to be a great year for the club. See you all soon. Be well.

Respectfully, *Jack Toogood*

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Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.**
POB 94744 Las Vegas, Nevada 89193

BLACK ROCK FIELD TRIP - Feb. 10th

As 35 of us gathered at the Apex I-15 off ramp, *Mother Nature* started our day with a spectacular sunrise. After a planned rest stop at the Valley of Fire off ramp, and for some of us - an unplanned detour through Mesquite, we arrived at the collection site about 9 am. Bill Lemmon gave a description of the variety of specimens we could expect to find: agate, algae balls, snake skin opal and selenite crystals.

At 10 am, approximately 1/2 mile from the parking area, Simy Bryant took a misstep which resulted in a broken ankle. Lynn Manthey was able to reach her location and transport her back to the parking area on his ATV. I must apologize for not being able to give due credit to all who provided assistance before Wes lifted Simy into their vehicle for a visit to the Emergency Room in St. George.

A mishap of this nature could easily happen on one's own doorstep. It is also an inherent possibility when collecting rock in the desert. This event demonstrated the importance and advantage of planning and attending organized club field trips. Not only was there an abundance of quality material to collect, but when an accident did occur there were numerous people to lend a helping hand.

FIELD TRIPS COMING UP

LAVIC FIELD TRIP - MARCH 24th - 7:30am Jean I-15 off ramp.

(Gas Station on west side of freeway.) **Travel Time:** Approx. 2½ hrs. Good dirt road **up to last ¼ mile. 4 Wheel drive needed for sandy wash.** Agate & Jasper combinations - Other Attraction: Volcanic Crater

Contact: Cliff Jackson 702-292-7938

BURRO CREEK - APRIL 11 - 15

The Burrow Creek group site is reserved for Wednesday April 11 through Sunday morning the 15th. A Potluck dinner will be held Saturday the 14th. The club will be furnishing dogs and burgers again this year.

March Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:08PM. Present were President Jack Toogood, Vice President Sharon Rogow, Secretary Clare Breneman, Treasurer Pat Skeary, Directors Tom Skeary, Larry Foutz, and Dick Moore. Absent were Directors Frank Auerswald and Dave Rogers.

Old Business - The Workshop is almost ready to move in, we have the keys. Workshop was discussed. Bylaws revision is tabled until after the workshop gets underway. Dave Finch will be asked to audit the books. We need to locate the titles to the storage trailers.

New Business - The Website chairman has not been heard from in months and Jack will take over website. The field trip page is being redone. Advertisers in the newsletter may also advertise on our website. We should have a grand opening for the workshop after it is open and invite the Mayor and the media. Meeting adjourned at 6:49PM.

.....submitted by *Clare Breneman*

Helen Cervantes

HAPPY 90th BIRTHDAY THIS MONTH
from SNGMS

JIM GROTHUESMANN
SNGMS member



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GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:15PM. Minutes from the February meeting were read by Clare. Motion to approve by Thomas Ainsworth, seconded by Dick Moore. The minutes were approved as read. Pat Skeary gave the Treasurer's report. Field trip report by Jack Toogood. Recap of the Black Rock trip led by Bill Lemmon. Upcoming trips on March 10th trip to Yermo and March 24th to Lavic. Both will be led by Cliff Jackson. Priscilla gave the sunshine report and mentioned that Lue Bartlett will be 99 this year. The new editor for the 'Slab' was officially introduced. Website report was given by Jack. Sharon Rogow reported on the upcoming shows. Glass show at the South Point the end of March and the Intergem show at Cashman at the beginning of June. Volunteers needed for both. Mary Beth did the kids report and the upcoming Easter picnic at Sunset Park site B on Saturday the 7th of April. Club to furnish hotdogs; bring your favorite dish.

Old Business - Revision of the bylaws has been tabled until after the workshop is complete. The current bylaws are posted on our website. Workshop update: Jack has the keys and will be signing the lease soon. Sandy Smith has taken on the responsibility of updating our display at the zoo.

New Business - No new business was introduced. Break for refreshments at 7:46PM Meeting resumed at 8:15PM.

Program was guest speaker Greg Burke, a local jeweler and GIA certified gemologist.

Announcements - Helen Cervantes will celebrate her 90th birthday this week.

No further business, Dick Moore motioned to adjourn, seconded by Shirley Scigiliano. Meeting adjourned at 8:53PM.

.....submitted by *Clare Breneman*, Secretary

Thank you Bill Lemmon for hosting our field trip to Black Rock last month. JT

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Sun - closed

What's Happening ? UPCOMING EVENTS

NEVADA—CALIFORNIA—ARIZONA—UTAH
Show Schedule

March 16-18 SPANISH FORK, UTAH- UTAH
Gem & Mineral Society - "Spring Parade of Gems"
Spanish Fork Fair Grounds 475 S. Main. Info; Frank
Weight (801)489-4040.

March 23-25 BAKERSFIELD, CAL. - 5th Annual
"Indoor & Outdoor Rock & Gem Rendezvous" - San
Joaquin Valley Lapidary Society - Kern County Fair-
grounds. Info: Lewis Helfrich (661) 872-8230.

**Other Shows May Be Found On
The Rock & Gem Website**

☆ -- SHOW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED -- ☆

CRAFT EXPO - March 30 - 31 & April 1 - SOUTH POINT

INTERGEM SHOW - JUNE - CASHMAN FIELD

Contact: Sharon Rowgow 702-656-1144

KIDS CLUB - Pebble Pups - PICNIC

A joint Club and Kid's Club Egg Hunt,
Rock Swap and Pot-luck Picnic will be held
April 7th at Sunset Park - Site B
9am to 2pm.

The Club is providing Hot Dogs.
Bring your own drinks and favorite pot-luck
dish and join the fun!

Contact : Mary Beth Paladino 702-255-1647

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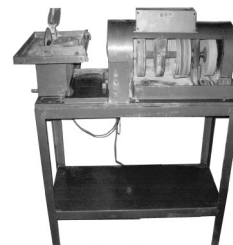
Ph. (702) 656 1144
Fax (702) 656 3839
Cell (702) 499 0272

**Our next meeting is April 2nd at 7pm. at the
Senior Center on Bonanza Ave. If your birth-
day is in April, don't forget to bring goodies
for the refreshment table.**

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

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the saw.**



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**Contact: Scott Bolshazy:
cell - 702-281-6101 home - 702-434-2291
e-mail - teachscott@yahoo.com**

SPACE IS FREE TO ADVERTSE HERE

For all club members. Just call Editor.



SUNSHINE REPORT

by Priscilla Messenger

Simy Bryant is recovering from a broken ankle.

Nyda Beeson was hospitalized with an infection,
but is now at home.

David Rogers, past President, had surgery on his
shoulder March 5th to repair an old injury .

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to all.

Lou Bartlett's son has moved in with her as a
caregiver. **Tom Gergits** who was looking in on her
regularly has developed medical problems of his own.

Call me if you need addresses or phone numbers.

Priscilla - 733-6578

AQUAMARINE

MARCH BIRTHSTONE

Derived from the Roman word "aqua: meaning water, and "mare", meaning sea, this pale blue gem does indeed resemble the color of seawater. The ancient Romans believed that aquamarine was sacred to Neptune, the god of the sea. Early sailors wore aquamarine talismans engraved with the likeness of Neptune, as protection against the dangers at sea.

Aquamarine is a member of the beryl family. Beryl is a mineral that crystallizes within large igneous rocks on the earth's crust. It varies in color from clear to vibrant gemstones such as the Emerald. Beryl was used as far back as 2,000 years ago to correct vision, and it continues to be used today in the manufacture of eyeglasses. It is a very hard mineral, making the Aquamarine a durable gemstone for use in jewelry.

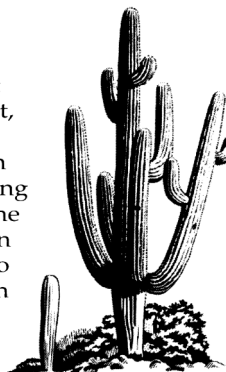
Aquamarine varies in color from blue-green to a light sky blue, but gems containing green are often heat treated to remove this less desirable color. The majority of Aquamarines, unlike other gemstones, are flawless. It is a relatively abundant gem, the largest deposits being in Brazil, but other sources of Aquamarine are in China, India, Australia, Africa and the United States.

.....from "About Birthstones"

DESERT CORNER

SAGUARO

Surprisingly, for a plant that can reach a height of 50 feet, the Saguaro starts from a seed no bigger than a gnat (less than 2mm). In order to survive, young Saguaro plants must grow in the shade of a mature plant, known as a "nurse" plant. The Saguaro will eventually grow taller than and outlive the "nurse" plant.



The Saguaro is often referred to as a "cactus hotel." Many animals, such as rodents, lizards, snakes, and birds, seek shelter in cavities made in the fleshy sides of the cactus by woodpeckers and flickers.

Large white flowers (Arizona's State Flower) open up at night and are mostly pollinated by the long-nosed bat. The bright red, pulpy fruit is an important food and water source, helping wildlife survive the long drought between the winter rains and the late summer monsoons. For humans, the pulp can be eaten fresh or made into syrup, jelly or wine. The seeds are rich in oil and can be ground and eaten.

.....from Arizona State Parks

EDITOR'S NOTE

It is with no small trepidation that I attempt to fill Jack Toogood's shoes as Editor of *The Polished Slab*. I can only say, "I will do my best." Jack's stewardship of the SNGMS Newsletter is going to be a tough act to follow!

Sincerely, *Gay*

TOM SKEARY
PAUL SKEARY

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Terry Munaretto	John Munaretto
Lois Kapsner	Harv Kapsner
Harvey Bergeron	Rita Bergeron
Barry Lawson	Chris Smead
Linda Karr	James Karr
Laura Hulsey	Gary Hulsey

Adele Solomon

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Nancy Tatom	Glenn Hale
Jackie May	Larry Foutz
Jeff Harper	Russ McNaught
Sharon Francia	Barb Egan
Karen Silveroli	Brook Sullens

Rick Kasky

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FROM SNGMS!
(If yours was missed we don't have it on file)

RIDESHARING PROGRAM

Anyone who needs a ride to the monthly meeting should call 222-1946 and we will try to arrange for you to be picked up. Please call about a week in advance of the meeting to allow for arrangements to be made.

JT

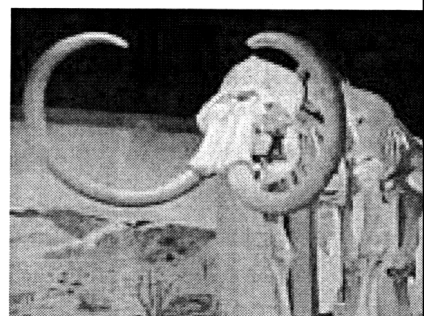


Jack is compiling an e-mail list for those of you who are computerized. Please send him your e-mail address. vegashbmw@hotmail.com

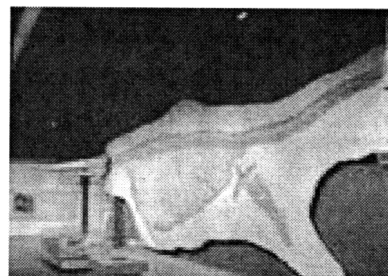
AVAILABLE NOW

All of the 2006 "Polished Slab" issues are available on CD ROM in PDF format. They are \$5 each. Call Jack at 510-4192 or send a check payable to SNGMS. **Please indicate "Newsletter CD" on your check.**

What's even bigger than a 13-foot high Columbian Mammoth with 10-foot long tusks?



A 48 foot long Ichthyosaur, of course.



The Nevada State Museum's natural history galleries tell the violent story of Nevada-volcanoes that is, and include minerals, gems, and paleo specimens.

The history galleries explore the human side of the shaping of Nevada.

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Our Past



Submitted by
Bruno and Phyllis Syzdek,
Historians

March 1971 LVGC "Gem Times"

GEM TIME.....MARCH 1971

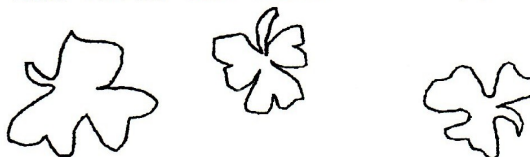
PEBBLE PUP PAGE



HATS OFF TO THE JUNIORS..

For a job W E L L . . . D O N E . . . The BABY ROCK SHOW was a great success! And it's success didn't stop with meeting night...some of these cases went on to be shown at different schools! JUNIORS we are proud that you are a part of the LAS VEGAS GEM CLUB.

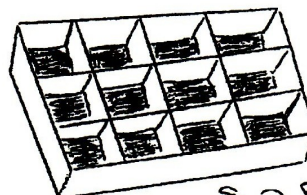
FIRST PLACE.....Lisa Madole
SECOND PLACE....Kim Lyall
THIRD PLACES....Scott Wells
 Scott Madole
 Linda Madole



FOR THE MARCH MEETING....Carol Woods will be your instructor.

BRING... A card board box approx.
6 inches wide and 10 inches
long. (Large enough to hold
your rocks) P

Bring...12 rocks (small) any one of
your choosing. Carol will
help you label them, and make
a specimen box.



SPECIMENS

DON'T FORGET....

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to

Linda Madole.....March 6
Scott Madole.....March 6
Kevin Floyd.....March 23

If you answer this
I'll be fit to be tied:
Which side of a pie...
Is the left side?

Right??
Left??
WRONG??

What word is it
That all along...
Children have been
Pronouncing wrong?

I just received a phone call from
the Birthday Fairy....Seems he had
just received a letter from one of
our Pebble Pups...and he's looking
for ROCK EQUIPMENT....the letter says-

DEAR BIRTHDAY FAIRY:

I would like a rock hammer and a
rock bag. And I would like to go to
Colorado. And a horn toad. And rock
equipment.

Love,
Linda

Now don't anyone tell Linda...or it
won't be a surprise...but I told the
Fairy where to find a beautiful Rock
hammer...and maybe even a bag!

submitted by Scott Wells

answers*****

#1...The side that isn't eaten. #2...Wrong

2007 Officers - Board of Directors - Committee Chairpersons

<u>Elected Officer</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>
President	Jack Toogood	222-1946
Vice president	Sharon Rowgow	656-1144
Secretary	Clare Breneman	452-0175
Treasurer	Pat Skeary	459-2649
One Year Board	Tom Skeary	459-2649
<u>Volunteer Chairpersons:</u>		
Parliamentarian/		
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News Letter Editor	Gay Fyfe	645-7553
Webmaster	Jack Toogood	510-4192
Website Liaison	Carolyn Edmonds	838-0012
Federation Director	Carolyn Chervenak	274-2867
Show Chairman	Sharon Rowgow	656-1144
Hospitality	Carolyn Chervenak	274-2867
Historians	Bruno & Phyllis Syzdek	876-3861
Financial Planner	George Messenger	733-6578
Awards Banquet		

<u>Elected Officer</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>
One Year Board	Dick Moore	459-1208
Two Year Board	Larry Foutz	896-7757
Three Year Board	Frank Auerswald	365-8306
<u>Volunteer Chairpersons:</u>		
Refreshments	Sue Lafaro	614-4351
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Sunshine	Priscilla Messenger	733-6578
Zoo Display	Sandy Smith	
First Friday	Jack Toogood	222-1946
Publicity	Erica Hamilton	364-1400
Program Director	Mary Beth Paladino	255-1647
Class Coordinator	Frank Auerswald	365-8306
General Foreman	Wes Bryant	
Shop Foreman		
Shop Foreman		
Shop Foreman		

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FAVORITE PROGRAM FOR MEETINGS - silent auction - guest speaker - slide show - video - show and tell - other (please specify) _____

MAIL IN OR TURN IN AT THE MEETING

THE POLISHED SLAB IS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT WWW.SNGMS.COM

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. We are incorporated for the purpose of promoting an interest in Geology, Gemology, the Lapidary arts and related fields. We began in Las Vegas in 1932, and became the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society in 2003 with the merger of the Las Vegas Gem club and the Clark County Gem Collectors. The first Polished Slab was published in 1940 by Paul Mercer.

Club Gemstone: Turquoise Colors: Turquoise & Silver
Club Logo: Faceted stone Club Motto: Rocks-R Us
Membership is open to anyone with an interest in:
Rocks, Gems, Geology, Lapidary, Beads, Fossils, or
Silver Smithing

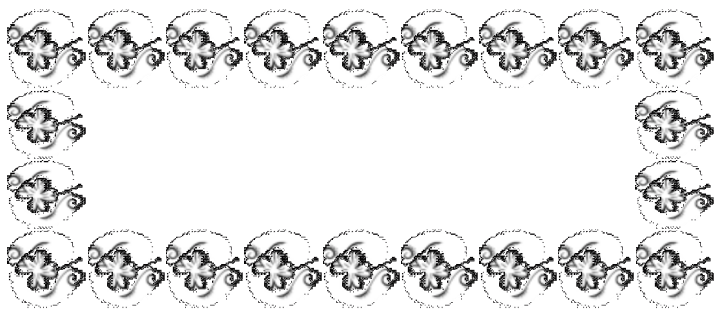
Annual Dues - Individual:\$20.00 Family: \$30.00
Club Name Badges available at \$10.00 each.

**Meetings: 7:00 PM the first Monday of the month at the
Senior Center at 451 Bonanza just west of Las Vegas Blvd.
Downtown Las Vegas, Nevada. 702-229-6454 for location info.
No meeting is held in December - Annual awards dinner
Visitors are always welcome - Bring a friend or two.**

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2" x 3.5" Business Card	\$18	\$30
4.25" x 5.5" Quarter Page	\$48	\$90
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First month free for club members. Ads must be paid prior to publication. Make checks payable to Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society. Mail to: **SNGMS**/attn: Editor
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HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY



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