

# The Polished Slab

VOLUME 67, ISSUE 7 A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUNDS SINCE 1940 JULY 2007

## President's Message

July attendance is usually less than normal due to so many members being on vacation. Years ago the Clark County Club simply had a potluck instead of a regular meeting for July. It was a nice surprise to see so many of you who were able to attend our July meeting. Don't forget, we still need a volunteer to chair the awards banquet.

Our business license issue has been resolved. The electrical power at the workshop is now in our name and we are ready for operation. Folding chair donations for the workshop are still needed.

The small trailer is stored at the workshop. The large trailer has been donated and will be on it's way to a new home next week. We have a new swamp cooler for the workshop at a bargain price, thanks to Diane Hale, who got us a super deal at Lowes. Things are finally back on track again. Be well, and I will see you all at the August 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Regards, *Jack Toogood*



## CMFS REPORT

by  
Carolyn Chervenak

Thanks to the club, as the Federation Chairman, I was able to attend the Lancaster Federation show June 15-17. It was held at the Lancaster Fairgrounds, with lots of room for the show and vendors. There were approximately 100 show cases. Unfortunately, we did not get one ready in time to display as we had hoped. There were some unique cases I had not seen in the past years at these shows. The CMFS meeting was held on Saturday morning and lasted 3 to 4 hours. Points for our interest include upcoming show dates and locations.

*(CFMS Continued on page 5)*

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POB 94744 Las Vegas, Nevada 89193

## Lue Bartlett

### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

by  
Theresa Graziano

Lue Bartlett is one of the remarkable, well educated, independent women of her time who paid heed to Horace Greeley's earlier advice to young men, "Go West".

She was born near Knobnoster, Missouri in October 1908 and grew up there. Lue attended college in Missouri to become a school teacher. After obtaining her degree, she came west and taught school in several of the then existing mining camps and small towns. Lue married Frank Bartlett during the 1940's in Battle Mountain, Nevada. She taught multiple grades in a one-room school house in Copper Canyon, a small mining camp south of Battle Mountain. They moved to Henderson in 1948, where she continued teaching until she retired in the late 1960's.

It was also in the 1960's that Lue and Frank started collecting rocks as a hobby, and began learning and practicing the Lapidary Arts. She took lessons in Lost Wax Casting from Bob Winston, which has since been her main focus in the jewelry trade. Aside from cutting and polishing her own stones as well as fabricating (soldering) custom settings, she has collected stones from sites all over the West, including many places that are no longer accessible to us.

*(LUE BARTLETT Continued on page 6)*

## July Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:14 PM. Present were: President Jack Toogood, Vice President Sharon Rogow, Secretary Clare Breneman, Treasurer Pat Skeary, Directors Tom Skeary, Frank Auerswald, Dick Moore, and Larry Foutz. First Friday chairman Lorna Metz was also present.

**Old Business:** Procedures for Refreshment table will be carried over to next meeting. The small trailer has been moved to the workshop. The big trailer has been donated and will be moved within the month. Purchase of a swamp cooler was discussed and will be presented to the membership for a vote. The last silver class will be July 3rd then resume again in September along with art clay class.

**New Business:** Lorna Metz requested \$50 in funds for signs for First Friday. Approved by board. She also suggested we have two club tables set up for First Friday.. Meeting adjourned at 6:49PM.

Submitted by: *Clare Breneman*, Secretary

### FIELD TRIPS COMING UP

#### NEVADA TEST SITE TOUR

Contact: Glen Beye (702) 354-9808

DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED

NO CAMERAS, CELL PHONE, OR RECORDING  
DEVICES OF ANY TYPE ALLOWED

Nevada Test Site History - See page 6

### RIDESHARING PROGRAM

Anyone who needs a ride to the monthly meeting should call 222-1946 and we will try and 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*

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 PM. Minutes from June were read by Clare. Sharon requested a correction regarding the purchase of a Genie. Motion to approve by Dick Moore, seconded by Craig Edmonds. Minutes were approved as corrected. Pat Skeary gave treasurer's report. Show dates were given by Sharon on the fall show at Cashman Center, Nov 30-Dec 2. Priscilla Messenger gave the Sunshine report. Mary Beth Paladino gave the kids report on the rock painting activity. First Friday report was given by Lorna Metz. Tables are available with 10% of sales donated to the club. First Friday committee will meet at nine after the General Meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:** The Field Trip to the Nevada Test Site is still pending, possibly to be scheduled for some time in September. Glenn Beye will co-ordinate. A chairperson for the Awards Banquet is still needed.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The purchase of a swamp cooler costing \$500 for the workshop was discussed. The motion to purchase was made by Frank Auerswald. Seconded by Tom Skeary. The motion was approved unanimously. Dave Seidner suggested that we change the name of our scholarship donation to UNLV to "*The Roy Beeson Memorial Scholarship Fund*". This issue needing to be discussed with Nyda Beeson before initiating the change.

**REFRESHMENT BREAK** at 8:00PM. The meeting resumed at 8:15PM.

**Program** was a safety video on first aid. The meeting adjourned at 9:00PM.

Submitted by: *Clare Breneman*, Secretary

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## What's Happening ?

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### NEVADA - CALIFORNIA - ARIZONA - UTAH Show Schedule

**July 21-22--SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA:**  
Show, "Bead Faire"; Gem Faire Inc.; Santa  
Monica Civic Auditorium, 1855 Main St.; Sat. 10-  
6, Sun. 10-5; admission \$5

**August 3-5--PRESCOTT, ARIZONA:** 4th annual  
show and sale; Prescott Gem & Mineral Club;  
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Activity  
Center, 3700 N. Willow Creek Rd.; Fri. 9-5, Sat.  
9-5, Sun. 9-4; adults \$2, children 12 and under  
free

**August 17-19--TEHACHAPI, CALIFORNIA:**  
Show; Eonic Endeavor; Tehachapi Academy of  
Performing Arts, 48771 Valley Blvd.; Fri. 9-dusk,  
Sat. 9-dusk, Sun. 9-5; free admission

**OTHER SHOWS MAY BE FOUND ON THE  
ROCK & GEM WEBSITE**

### *LAS VEGAS ARTS DISTRICT FIRST FRIDAY*

**AUGUST 3rd**

Contact: Lorna Metz, Chairman  
(702) 877-4258

### **KIDS CLUB - Pebble Pups**

**MEETING 2 TIMES MONTHLY**

Kids club meetings are held at my home at  
3740 Moss Ridge Court. Call for directions.  
702-255-1647 .....*Mary Beth Paladino*

### **CLASS SCHEDULE**

CLASSES WILL RESUME  
IN SEPTEMBER.

**Our next meeting is August 6<sup>th</sup> at 7pm  
at the Senior Center on Bonanza  
Avenue. If your birthday is in August,  
please don't forget to bring some  
goodies for the refreshment table.**



## **SUNSHINE REPORT**

*by Priscilla Messenger*

I'm happy to report that Lue Bartlett's grand-  
daughter, **Theresa Graziano**, and her hus-  
band are the proud parents of a baby girl  
named Amelia born about two weeks ago. If  
you wish to send them a card, their address is:

P.O. Box 9127  
Pahrump, NV 89060

**Lue Bartlett's** son, Everett, is staying with  
his mother. She is declining both physically  
and mentally. If you wish to send her a note  
her address is: 218 Nebraska Avenue  
Henderson, NV 89015

Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, we lost our longtime  
friend and club member, **Roy Beason**. The  
hospital was no longer able to control his inter-  
nal bleeding. He seemed at peace during his  
last few days. Our club members like Tom  
Gergits, Doris Currington, Clare Breneman and  
Mary Beth Paladino were true friends during  
this last year. Roy and Nyda had been mar-  
ried for over 60 years.

Roy was the club member I always consulted  
to determine what a specimen contained. His  
creations and his collections have graced  
many displays in schools and libraries. Our  
present Pebble pups had 2 meetings at Roy  
and Nyda's home where Roy passed on his  
knowledge of rocks and his skills on the lapi-  
dary machines. The Boulder City School 5<sup>th</sup>  
grade classes came to their home once a year  
for many years.

There will probably be a memorial service for  
Roy within 2 months, and there should be time  
to notify members through *The Polished Slab*  
or by E-mail. We send heartfelt condolences  
to Nyda and his family. Roy's death is a great  
loss to our club.

Send cards to: 1408 San Felipe Drive  
Boulder City, NV 89005

**RUBY**  
JULY BIRTHSTONE

Like a perfect red rose, the Ruby's rich color speaks of love and passion. Called the "Rajnapura" or King of Gems by ancient Hindus, July's birthstone is among the most highly prized gems throughout history. The Ruby was considered to have magical powers, and was worn by royalty as a talisman against evil. It was thought to grow darker when peril was imminent, and to return to its original color once danger was past - provided it was in the hands of the rightful owner!

Rubies were thought to represent heat and power. Ancient tribes used the gem as bullets for blowguns, and it was said that a pot of water would boil instantly if a Ruby was tossed into it. Ground to powder and placed on the tongue, this crystal was used as a cure for indigestion.

The word Ruby comes from the Latin "ruber" meaning red. It is a variety of the mineral Corundum, and is found as crystals within metamorphic rock. Corundum is the second hardest mineral, after Diamond. It comes in a variety of colors, and is considered a Sapphire in any color except red, which is designated as a Ruby. Rubies range in hue from an orangey red to a purplish red, but the most prized gems are a true red in color. Large sized Rubies are very rare and valuable.

The history of Ruby mining dates back more than 1,500 years ago. The most beautiful crystals are thought to be from Burma, but quality Rubies are also found in India, Sri Lanka, Australia, Kenya, Tanzania, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the United States.

It has been said that the Ruby's red glow comes from an internal flame that cannot be extinguished, making a gift of this stone symbolic of everlasting love. With its hardness and durability, it is a perfect engagement gem. And if worn on the left hand, ancient lore has it that the Ruby will bring good fortune to its wearer, too!

..... from "ABOUT BIRTHSTONES"

**DESERT CORNER**

**ROADRUNNER**

Here is a bird who would rather run than fly! He will take to flight only as a last resort. He can outrun and outdodge anything, swerving suddenly into thick desert brush. His sturdy legs carry him up to 15 miles per hour and he



It is often seen running along roadsides. The Roadrunner grows to 24 inches long and is black, brownish-grey and white streaked with a black-crested head and nearly black tail. His lower belly and underside are white, streaked with brown. He has a pale blue ring around his eyes, with a prominent red streak at the back of this ring. This strictly Southwesterner is a bold and curious clown, playfully pecking at almost anything with his long, strong beak. His diet is of insects, lizards, toads and snakes. He nests in a bush, tree or cholla cactus and is a member of the cuckoo family.

.....from Desert Wildlife of the Southwest

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 Ron Gramm & Mary Hittle  
 Edward & Alora Mahler

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Andrew Craig	Ivan Erwin
Eddie Hill	Earl Imel
Janet Knight	Priscilla Messenger
Tom Skeary	John Riley
Bruno Syzdek	Phyllis Syzdek

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



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(CFMS continued from page 1)

The 2008 show will be held at the Ventura Fairgrounds on June 27-29. The 2009 show location is still up for grabs. The 2010 show will be at the Riverside Convention Center on August 5-8.

A few attendees approached our club, asking if we would like to hold the 2009 Federation Show here in Las Vegas. We should think about that and see if it is feasible to make it happen. Some vendors also approached me and stated that they would love a reason to come to Vegas. They had some concerns, and I will take it up with our Show Chairman.

Insurance is always an issue brought up. They did let us know that the contents of our shop can be covered, and we need to make sure we have updated our coverage since we now are proud owners of our shop.

We as a club can enter a scrapbook of our previous year's activities, field trips etc. with pictures and all. The deadline is February 28, 2008. Using our historian records would help, and get us involved. They want a 100 pages or less. Maybe we can start this project next year to enter in 2009.

They said we should print a new safety manual, which is available on the internet, for the club to go over.

They went over a lot of new rules with BLM and road closures for California. We know this to be a problem here also. Black Mt. was brought up and they talked about contents control of 25 lbs. and no more. Wilderness permits are needed, especially for school projects or clubs.

They are really supporting the kids programs. Six new badges have been added and they will help our group with Mary Beth.

They are looking for donations of cabochons for the Federation Shows. It would be a great plus for our club to have a continual display at these meetings if we can put together a cab display of rocks from Nevada and present it to them next year.

This is great to be able to attend these meetings, get updated and see other clubs' participation. We sure could get more involved in the Federation Shows.

(LUE BARTLETT Continued from page 1)

Lue has been a member of all of the Gem and Mineral Clubs that have come and gone through the years in the Las Vegas area. She has held positions as Vice President, Secretary, Federation Director and Dealer Chairman. She has demonstrated the Lost Wax process at shows and taught that process to groups of club members. She has sold her creations at numerous shows and venues, including the ever present Quartzsite.

Lue has one son, Everett, who in turn has one daughter, Theresa. Sadly, Lue's mind is failing and the information and expertise she possesses is being lost to us. Her entire family has been involved in learning and practicing one form or another of the Lapidary hobby, each having their own individual "knack" that they continue to pursue.

## NEVADA TEST SITE HISTORY

by  
Gay Fyfe

President Truman signed the "Atomic Energy Act" August 1, 1946 forming the *Atomic Energy Commission (AEC)*. The first 2 atomic tests were conducted in Bikini Atoll using a decommissioned Battleship, the "USS Nevada", as a target. January 11, 1951 a portion of the *Nellis Gunnery Range*, was designated the *Nevada Proving Grounds*, later to become the *Nevada Test Site (NTS)* which grew to include 1,350 square miles, with headquarters at Mercury, Nevada.

The first of the initial series of 5 above ground tests was conducted January 27, 1951. All 5 bombs were released from a B-50 bomber. Twelve areas were designated for various methods of tests. Scientists devising the tests were from Los Alamos Nuclear Laboratory in Los Alamos, New Mexico, and from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in Livermore, California. President Eisenhower discontinued testing in October 1958.

It was during this period of above ground testing that Las Vegas publicized and used the tests to attract tourists to the area. Local residents also watched for the explosions that were so bright they could easily be seen even during daylight hours. Some of the larger yield blasts caused the taller buildings to sway much like an earthquake. Everyone watched and waited, hoping to get a view of the pink mushroom cloud as it usually floated in an Easterly direction.

Testing resumed under President Kennedy in September 1961. From September 15, 1961 to September 17, 1963 a total of 145 tests were conducted. Of these, 36 tests were detonated in the atmosphere and 4 were "Plowshare Tests" (peaceful, constructive uses for nuclear explosions).

October 7, 1963, President Kennedy signed the "Limited Test Ban Treaty" whereby the US, USSR, and UK agreed to conduct all future nuclear tests underground. In 1974, "The Energy Reorganization Act" dissolved the AEC and created 2 new agencies, *The Nuclear Regulatory Commission* and the *Energy Research and Development Administration*, which became the *Department of Energy (DOE)* in 1977.

During the 46 years of active testing a total of 1,054 bombs were exploded. The final nuclear test at NTS was shot on September 23, 1992, when President Bush declared a 9 month moratorium. President Clinton did not allow nuclear testing to resume.

References: "No One Knew Us" by Bob Knipes  
"Clark County The Changing Face of Southern Nevada"  
Personal Experience

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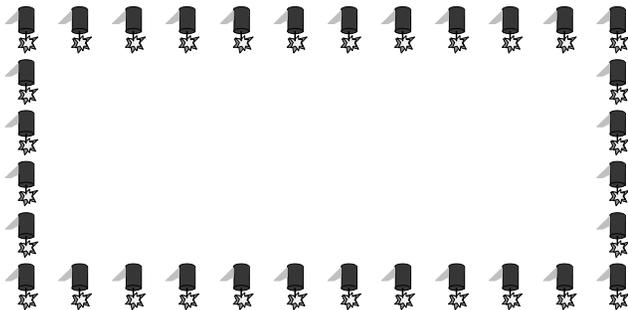
**Meetings: 7:00 PM the first Monday of the month at the Senior Center at 451 Bonanza just west of Las Vegas Blvd. Downtown Las Vegas, Nevada. 702-229-6454 for location info. No meeting is held in December - Annual awards dinner Visitors are always welcome - Bring a friend or two.**

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