

# The Polished Slab

VOLUME 67, ISSUE 8 A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUNDS SINCE 1940 AUGUST 2007

## President's Message

Thanks to all who were able to attend the August meeting. The September meeting will be one not to be missed. We will be having a program remembering Roy Beeson. If you have any jewelry or other pieces made by Roy, please wear or bring them to the meeting. October's meeting will be a silent auction and November will be Show & Tell & Sell plus the election for new officers. Think about helping your club by running for office. Be well, and I hope to see you all at the September 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Regards, *Jack Toogood*

## *In Memoriam*

### ROY M. BEESON

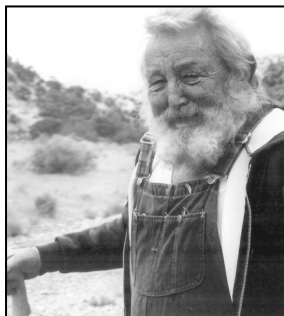


Photo by: Carol McGovern

by  
Francis Anderson  
and  
Michele R. Castle

Roy M. Beeson passed away on June 30, 2007. He was born November 22, 1914, Moab, UT to Marcus V. and Mary Ann (Stocks) Beeson. He was preceded

in death by 2 brothers, 2 sisters and 1 grandson.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Nyda Ray (Winbourn), one sister Opal in Texas, 4 daughters: Francis Anderson of Greenville, CA, Joyce Pier of

(ROY BEESON Continued on page 5)

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

## ED RUPPRECHT

### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

by  
Jaen Rupprecht and Scott Edwards

Who is Ed Rupprecht, you see him at meetings, where he holds court as one of our elder statesman in the rock hound field. The knowledge he holds and has forgotten (as not necessary) is unlimited and at one time there was not a rock that he could not identify or did not like. When you meet him you feel that you are an instant friend, one you want on each of your trips into the wilderness so that you do not have to carry that book that weighs about ten pounds to identify what you find. Here is what I have learned about Ed "The Rock" Rupprecht.

He got his beginning in Elk River, Minnesota. On a fall day, the 24th of October 1925, and when he was fourteen he moved from the city and became a farm boy and started collecting rocks. He started by picking them up and looking at them and then would throw them down again; not knowing at that time what he was looking at was the Lake Superior Banded Agate that is so sought after now. He did keep one piece, a Red, White and Blue one that eventually slipped out of his hands over the years. He kept picking them up and throwing them away until he went into the service in 1947.

He served first in the Army Infantry, in Scotland (at the end of the 2nd World War where he got the WWII Victory Medal) and then Germany. In Germany he started cooking. Coming home for

(ED RUPPRECHT Continued on page 4)

## August Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:26p.m. Present were: President Jack Toogood, Vice-President Sharon Rogow, Secretary Clare Breneman, Treasurer Pat Skeary, Directors Tom Skeary and Dick Moor.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Procedures for the refreshment table were tabled until the September meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Sharon will provide sign-up sheets for volunteers to be contacted for jobs as needed.

Jack reported that the big trailer is gone. The small trailer now has all items needed for the Gem Shows.

Sharon reported on the Bellingham, WA show she attended, and suggested several things we can do to raise money for our Club.

Programs for the October and November meetings were discussed. A Silent Auction will be held in October. November's meeting will consist of elections of officers, and a Show, Tell and Sell.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Submitted by: *Clare Breneman*, Secretary

## *LAS VEGAS ARTS DISTRICT FIRST FRIDAY*

**SEPTEMBER 7<sup>th</sup>**

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

## FIELD TRIPS COMING UP

### NEVADA TEST SITE TOUR

To sign up

Contact: Art Lory (702) 648-3816  
or  
Glen Beye (702) 354-9808

**NO CAMERAS, CELL PHONES, OR RECORDING  
DEVICES OF ANY TYPE ALLOWED**

## AUGUST GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The minutes from the July meeting were read by Clare. Motion to approve by Bruno Syzdek, seconded by Dick Moore. Minutes approved as read.

Pat Skeary gave the treasurer's report.

Mary Beth Paladino gave the Pebble Pup's report. She stated that she is considering holding the Kid's Club meetings at the same time as the monthly General meeting.

Priscilla Messenger gave the Sunshine Report.

Wes Bryant, General Forman, gave the Shop Report. The 3 phase power has been turned on and he is to meet with an Air Conditioning repairman on Wednesday.

Lorna Metz, the First Friday Chairman, provided sign-up sheets for volunteers to do demonstrations, act as tour guides, and sell Club merchandise as well as their own. All members who sell their crafts on First Friday will donate 10% of sales to the Club.

Sharon Rogow, Show Chairman, would like a semi-permanent committee. She is also planning a Rock Rendezvous sometime in the future.

Diane Hale volunteered to be the Awards Banquet Chairman.

Anyone wanting to go on the Nevada Test Site Tour needs to contact Art Lory to sign up.

**REFRESHMENT BREAK** at 7:48 p.m.

**THE PROGRAM** was a slide show and demonstration of florescent stones given by Doris Currington, assisted by Tom Skeary.

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Submitted by: *Clare Breneman*, Secretary

## 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*

## What's Happening ?

### UPCOMING EVENTS

NEVADA - CALIFORNIA - ARIZONA - UTAH  
Show Schedule

#### 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; concurrent with annual Tehachapi Mountain Festival, lapidary demonstrations, vendors;

**24-26--SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA:** Gem Faire; Gem Faire Inc.; Scottish Rite Center, 1895 Camino del Rio S.; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; admission \$5 (weekend pass);

#### SEPTEMBER

**20-23--McDERMITT, NEVADA:** Show, "Rockhound Rendezvous"; Nevada Commission on Tourism; Diamond A Motel, U.S. Hwy. 95; Thu. 9-4, Fri. 9-4, Sat. 9-4, Sun. 9-4; free admission; dealers, agates, jaspers, opals, petrified wood, jewelry, field trips;

OTHER SHOWS MAY BE FOUND ON THE  
ROCK & GEM WEBSITE

### KIDS CLUB - Pebble Pups

**NEXT MEETING:** August 22, 1:00pm - 3:00 pm  
**ACTIVITY:** Sand Art

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

### CLASS SCHEDULE

-SILVERSMITHING -  
TUESDAYS - Starting August 14<sup>th</sup>

CONTACT: Frank Auerswald 365-8306

### A BIG THANKYOU

To **DIANE HALE** for the great "deal" she  
got on the swamp cooler for the workshop!

### OUR NEXT MEETING

September 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.  
at the Senior Center on Bonanza Avenue.  
The Program will be about Roy Beeson, his  
collection and work.

If you own a piece of Roy's jewelry , don't  
forget to wear it!

**If your birthday is in September,  
please don't forget to bring some  
goodies for the refreshment table.**



### SUNSHINE REPORT

*by Priscilla Messenger*

This month's newsletter has an article about Roy Beeson by his daughter, Frances Anderson, with contributions by Roy's longtime friend, Doris Currington. Nyda has her son and his wife living with her. Recently they took her fishing in Boulder City and another day they went to a movie together.

**Angelo and Helen Cervantes** go out for lunch every day and usually work in Angelo's cabochon workshop also. This past weekend they drove to California to see relatives. Occasionally they drive to Mesquite or Laughlin.

**Scott Kramer** was scheduled to have knee surgery today, August 6<sup>th</sup>. He will be hospitalized for 4 days. If you wish to send him a note, his home address is:

219 Texas Avenue  
Henderson, NV 89015.

**Clare Breneman's** son will be visiting and Mark will be home for 4 days.

**Ed and Jaen Rupprecht** plan to go to Shanghai, China in October to see one of their grandchildren compete in the World Special Olympics. After the event, they will spend a week in Minnesota with relatives before returning to Las Vegas.

(ED RUPPRECHT Continued from page 1)

Discharge and not finding a job he reenlisted in the Army Air Corps as cook and was sent to Fujioka, Japan during the Korean Conflict and received a letter from then President, Harry Truman. When the Army Air Corps split and became the Army and the Air Force he stayed with the Air Force and eventually found himself stationed at Nellis Air Force Base here in Las Vegas, NV. While a Cook at Nellis he started cooking in his off hours at the Alpine Village Inn as the Assistant Head Cook. When he got out of the service he applied for and got a job as Civilian Cook at Nellis Air Base.

While stationed at Nellis Air Base Ed and some of his friends started the Nellis Gem Club. It was Ed, Bruno Syzdek, Mike Stapleton and Anna Parks; they had a 24" Highland Park Slab Saw, and 10" trim saw and three 10" Carborundum wheel grinders for shaping and polishing stones. So that he could continue to use the equipment at Nellis Gem Club he took the job as a civilian cook and also cooked at Mercury, Nevada when they were doing the Nuclear testing there in the fifties. He was Shop Foreman and Cabochon carving instructor over the years.

In 1953 he joined the Clark County Gem and Mineral Club. He helped them build their first workshop in 1954 using wood he donated that he purchased by bidding on a contract to demolish some old buildings on Nellis Air Force Base. This shop was at the home of Tom Amondson on Lincoln Rd. in North Las Vegas. This shop had a 24" Slab saw; 10" trim saw and a two wheel 10" Carborundum grinder for shaping and polishing stones. He helped with shop maintenance and was Field Trip Chairman along with Keith Groves for several years for this group. During this time while Rock hounding throughout the Southwestern states he found a very beautiful multi colored Jasper in the area of Enterprise, Utah and for about a year had a mineral claim there to mine what he had discovered and named "Indian Blanket Jasper".

In 1954 while prospecting in the Monte Cristo Mountains he discovered the deposit of "Bulls Eye Rhyolite" that we all have several field trips to each year to this day.

In the mid 60's he also became a member of the Las Vegas Gem and Mineral Club as he had friends in both clubs. In 1966 he was the Layout

chairman for the big California Federation of Mineral Societies show here in Las Vegas.

In the early 90's the shop was moved from North Las Vegas to the Southwest (Valley View and Tropicana) area of town occupying a portion of a building where the brother-in-law of Scott Cramer had his business. Ed was shop foreman here with Jerry Bertschai as well as being part of the speakers' bureau. He has entertained and informed numerous school children in Clark County Schools and given them a glimpse of the beauty that abounds around us here in the Southwest...Also at Lee Canyon a Senor group. When this building was sold and the club had to move all the saws, they were moved to Ed's back yard where they were covered and stored waiting to be moved to a new workshop.

In the mid 90's along with his wife he had claims on some opal mines in the Virgin Valley area.

In the late 90's Ed bought a Quonset Hut and with other club members physical labor assembled it on the back part of his property giving the club use of about half the interior of the building for its workshop. He was shop foreman and provided general maintenance for the clubs equipment often cannibalizing his own equipment to keep the clubs machines working. He also poured a slab and constructed a shelter for a saw shed for the club's Slab saws. He built or acquired all the tables and benches for the club to use in the workshop. In 2005 the club moved out of Ed's workshop and has now found a space of their own in the Las Vegas Arts District. He is a teacher with unequaled knowledge and patience to teach someone the great beauty of nature. He still works the shows and provides displays for them. Through out the years he has never refused to help when asked. Ed devoted most of his free time to teaching, maintaining, promoting and supporting the Gem Clubs in this valley since the early 1950's.

Also in addition he held the following full time jobs: From 1953 to 1977 he was a Cook at a number of locations in the area. From 1977 to 1991 he worked as a Masonry Laborer with Harry Scott and Tom Yeley. From 1991 to 1997 he owned and operated his own Landscape maintenance Company. In 1997 at the age of 72 he finally decided to retire and go to work at his passion, that

(ED RUPPRECHT Continued on page 6)

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Steve Wachholtz	Fay Unbarger
Janet Nieman	Marty Lange
Wanda M. Stevens	Diane Gorny
Catherine Marshall	

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Mary Dapprich	Josette Delattre
Karen Harker	Barbara Heim
Ruth Holstrom	Fred Huelsmann
Virginia Johnson	Katrina Kuhn
Marty Lange	Sue Lofaro
Alora Mahler	Sandra Rich
Bill Robinson	Diane Rogers
Frank Rowley	Billye Singer
Donna Swartz	

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY FROM SNGMS!

(If yours was missed we don't have it on file)

Apologies to **Mark Breneman** for missing his August birthday (we didn't have it).

## PERIDOT

AUGUST BIRTHSTONE

(ROY BEESON Continued from page 1)

Seattle, WA, Dana Beeson of Moab UT, and Tami Dinsman of Henderson, NV.: 2 sons: Roy Mark Beeson of La Sal, UT, and Richard Beeson and his wife Rae Lynn of Boulder City, NV: 11 grandchildren, 22 great-grand children and 14 great-great-grandchildren. He will be greatly missed.

He was a member of the Iron Workers Union for over 50 years. He learned his trade in the ship yards during WWII. Earlier in his life he was a miner in Northern Nevada. In that earlier period the fascination for rocks and "what's inside" was born.

He loved the out-of-doors, camping, boating, fishing, hunting, and eventually, rock hounding. When Richard was in high school, he took a lapidary class and Roy started building saws, grinders, and polishers. It quickly took up most of his time and energy. He was an artist and craftsman. Most of the people who came into contact with him have a piece of his jewelry. He loved to "show" his collections at rock club meeting, shows and his special was 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Martha King Elementary School in Boulder City. For thirteen years all of the 5<sup>th</sup> graders made the trek to the Beeson house where he had set up many displays. Of course the "free table" and the "junk pile" were the favorite of the students. He loved to teach anyone who wanted to learn about rocks, minerals, and processes of lapidary.

Roy and Nyda both belonged to both rock clubs in Las Vegas before they joined the Boulder City Club and the Taylorsville, CA Gem and Mineral Club and exhibited at all functions he attended. He donated exhibits to McCaw School of Mines in Henderson, NV and Sandy Searles Miller Academy for International Studies in Las Vegas, NV and several libraries in Clark County, NV.

There will be no services as per his request.

### TO THE BEESON FAMILY

I wish to express my personal sympathy and condolences to the Beeson family for their loss. I didn't know Roy well, but I did have the honor to go on 1 very enjoyable field trip with him.

I offer my most profound apologies for misspelling his name in the July issue of the *Polished Slab*.

Sincerely, *Gay Fyfe*, Editor

(ED RUPPRECHT Continued from page 4)

of being a full time ROCKHOUND.

Through the years he also found time to have a son David who lives in Duluth, Minnesota, a daughter, Sharon who lives in Rogers, Minnesota, who gave him two Granddaughters, Larissa who is getting ready to go to Shanghai, China to represent the U.S.A in the Special Olympics playing Basketball there later this year and Julie who has given him two beautiful great granddaughters, Ashlyn and Lauren. He is also busy getting ready to go to China to watch his granddaughter playing basketball.

In 2001 Ed was honored by the California Federation of Mineral Societies with the "Education Through Sharing" medal.

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<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
<b><u>Volunteer Chairpersons:</u></b>		
Parliamentarian/		
Sgt. At Arms	Craig Edmonds	838-0012
Pebble Pups	Mary Beth Paladino	255-1647
Newsletter 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	Diane Hale	897-4906

<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
<b><u>Volunteer Chairpersons:</u></b>		
Refreshments	Sue Lafaro	614-4351
Door Prizes	Mary Beth Paladino	255-1647
Sunshine	Priscilla Messenger	733-6578
Zoo Display	Sandy Smith	
First Friday	Lorna Metz	877-4258
Publicity	Erica Hamilton	364-1400
Program Director	Mary Beth Paladino	255-1647
Class Coordinator	Frank Auerswald	365-8306
General Foreman	Wes Bryant	228-3331
Shop Foreman		
Shop Foreman		
Shop Foreman		
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**INTERESTS** [ ] Mineralogy [ ] Lapidary [ ] Field Trips [ ] Geology [ ] Beads [ ] Silversmithing [ ] Other

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

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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  
Silversmithing

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

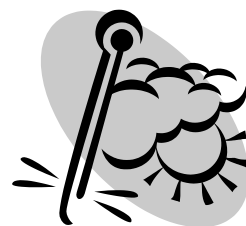
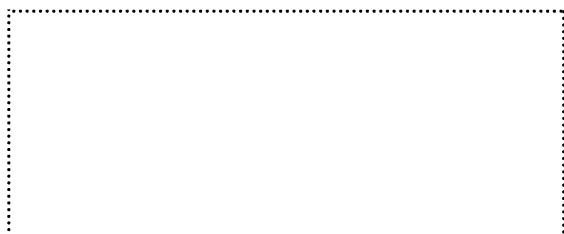
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