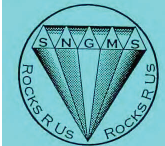


THE POLISHED SLAB



A Publication of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society

March 2010

Volume 70 Issue 2

We Want You!!!

Wanna have fun AND get a chance for a Grand Prize? All you have to do is volunteer for a shift for the Clark County Fair Booth. Every shift worked is rewarded with a raffle ticket.

**THESE TICKETS CANNOT BE PURCHASED WITH MONEY.....THEY CAN ONLY
BE PURCHASED WITH BLOOD, SWEAT & TEARS!**

Prizes will be given at the end of the Clark County Fair. Wanna know what the Grand Prize is?



An all inclusive Airborne Geological Tour

In a vintage 1941 Taylorcraft

Compliments of Dan Nezgoda

This prize can be transferred and the winner must be over 18 yrs of age.
See the club table at the general meeting on March 1st for more details.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

March 1 -"Social Hour" & "Show & Sell" **5-6 PM**
March 1 -SNGMS General Meeting **6-8 PM**
March 5 -First Friday **5 PM** till ?
March 6 -Field Trip, Valley of Fire Exit, **7 AM**
March 9 -Geology Class **6 PM**
March 13 -Field Trip, Railroad Pass Casino, **7AM**
March 20 -Rock Stars Meeting at the Shop **11AM - 1 PM**
March 20 -"Open House and Swap" at the shop **1-5 PM**
March 27 -Shop Orientation **11 AM** at the shop
March 22 -Board of Director's Meeting **6 PM** @ the shop
April 7-11 -Clark County Fair & Rodeo



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Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society

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NEZ THE PREZ

AWESOME, WONDERFUL, SMILING, ENTHUSIASTIC, etc.... These are the words to describe the members of SNGMS! We have had HUGE responses to the activities we have been offering, and things are just getting' better & better. For example, at February's meeting we had **145** people! Approx 50 signed up for each field trip, 50 signed up for the geology class, 10 for beginning silversmithing, and 17 for wirewrapping. We also sold out of the books we offered! What a meeting! Now let's talk field trips:

Yipee-ki-yay.....We had a herd of rockhounds that set out on our first field trip of 2010! We had approx 45 people and 28 vehicles. And THAT was in the rain....we sure have some die hard hounders. Lots of members were there that had never been on a field trip and judging by the smiles on their faces....they had a GREAT time and got their fill of red/white onyx. The second field trip was also a huge success with a gorgeous spring day filled with approx 40 hounders and 23 cars! I heard thru the grapevine that everyone was pleased.

The workshop will no doubt be busy in the following weeks, with all the lapidary creatures cutting and polishing their loot from the fieldtrips. What else can I say but WOW.....

The Show & Sell during Social hour was another huge success and ya'll seemed to enjoy it. So we'll continue bringing you the things that you want. Keep communicating with your board members and let us know if there is something you'd like to see added or changed. Thanks for smiling and laughing with us as we go through the "trials & errors" we are bound to have. We are working to make this a great experience for all members of the club and we'll continue to tweak things here and there until we get it right.

The passion I see re-ignited in the members has brought a smile to my face. It's wonderful to see so much activity in our club and we are having so much fun already! We even have fun while we are working for you.....so come join us for some more wild adventures. Teresa

Classes Offered

SILVERSMITHING

Tuesdays: 6 to 9 P. M.

Senior Center - 451 E. Bonanza Road

Contact: Jenna Plein

WIRE WRAPPING

March 8, 15, and 22, 6 to 9 P..M.

SNGMS Work Shop

Contact: Sue Moore

sngmsmembership@yahoo.com

GEOLOGY

Tuesdays: 6 to 9 P. M.

Senior Center - 451 E. Bonanza Road

Contact: Dan Nezgoda

sngms_education@yahoo.com

Burro Creek Campout & Rockhounding

April 14 - 18

Burro Creek Campground, Arizona. Find out more information at the March Meeting and at

http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/recreation/camping/dev_camps/burrocr.html

MARCH PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

“ It’s Hot down there! Hot where? well, It’s hot where that Igneous rock comes from!! “

At the next general meeting we will be discussing the what-and-where-withal of igneous rock. What is igneous rock? It is the elemental building block where all other rock types come from.

The term “igneous” refers to fire, and fire defines this type of rock. Quite simply put, igneous rock is rock that is formed by the cooling of molten magma, the fiery stuff that lies deep beneath our feet. You know this stuff as “lava” when it flows out onto the surface. There are two main divisions of igneous rock, **Intrusive** and **Extrusive**.

When this molten stuff cools slowly right in place without flowing to the surface, it creates “Intrusive igneous rock”. Intrusive, meaning that it has “**intruded**” into some place under your feet. This allows the molten stuff to slowly cool. This slow cooling allows crystals to form thus creating a rock that has visible medium to large sized crystal grains. The most common type of intrusive igneous rock is granite. The Sierra Nevada Mountains are predominantly this type of rock, magma that cooled slowly at depth.

When the molten lava flows out onto the surface it creates “Extrusive igneous rock”. Extrusive meaning that it “**extruded**” onto the surface. There are a bunch of different types of extrusive igneous rock but we generally lump them into being called “Volcanic rock”. Volcanic, meaning related to a volcano, related to lava flowing or blowing out onto the earth’s surface. (This is a large generalization but it’s good enough for our purposes here). Since it comes out in the form of lava flows or eruptions, it cools quickly so there is no time for medium or large mineral crystals to form. It produces a rock that is generally fine grained with no large individual crystals visible. The most common example of extrusive igneous rock here in Nevada is Basalt.

So, what’s the big deal, why should I know this stuff? Because different types of minerals and different types of cutting materials come from different types of igneous rock formations. For example, if you are interested in tourmaline, you will find it in areas where there are Intrusive igneous rocks, i.e. Granite terrains. If it is obsidian that you’re after, you will find it near areas of Extrusive volcanic flow, i.e. areas of basalt.

Come to our next general meeting, where Doris and I will share more of this basic building block of geological knowledge.



Education Mine -

Hello fellow rock hounders. There's a lot of new activity in the realm of education. First, the Beginning Silver Smithing class is already in progress. If you are interested in being a part of the next class be sure to sign up at the next general meeting to get on the list. The classes will not be limited at this time. Cost for the class is \$5 a class plus cost of supplies. Jenna Plein will be your attentive instructor.

Secondly, if you are new to cutting and polishing rock, or it has been a long time since you have worked in our shop, we will be holding a "Shop Orientation" on Saturday February 27th at 11am at our workshop located at 1025 South Main St. We will show you how to use the slab saws, trim saws, laps, and polishers to create beautiful cabochons and polished pieces. If you cannot make it this month, you can come in March. We will be holding a shop orientation the last Saturday of every month. Come and learn how to utilize this wonderful facility.

Finally, I want to remind you that the **"Geology For Rock Hounds"** class will begin **Tuesday March 9th, 6pm at the Senior Center on Bonanza RD where we have our club meetings.** We have had a tremendous response to this class. We already have over 50 people signed up and space will be at a premium! Be sure to sign up if you haven't done so already. The cost is free to our members and a nominal fee of \$10 for non-members. The cost of your textbook is \$20. The class will be a high energy 10 weeks, in which I promise to not bore you or baffle you with too much college detail. In addition to the classes, I will be hosting a field trip or two where we can actually SEE and FEEL what you have been hearing in the classroom. So join us on Tuesday evenings. Learning about physical geology will help you to understanding what you see when you are out collecting. It will even help to direct you to new areas where great rocks, gems, and mineral specimens can be found.

One final note, Let me encourage you to participate in our rock collecting field trips. These are a great place to learn about geology, rock hounding, and even the history of Nevada. We have a great time and there is no better way to learn then to get on-the-rock.

Don't miss this months **"Open House and Swap"** at the shop on Saturday, March 20 from 1pm to 5pm. If you are new to the club or just haven't had a chance to come by the shop yet, this is your chance to stop by and see what the shop is all about, get rid of those extra slabs or rocks, check out what great deals you can haggle over, have a burger or a hot dog, talk rocks or just hang out. If you would like to reserve a space to sell or swap your wears, give me a call at 756-8044. I hope to see you down there.



FIELD TRIP NOTES

Don't miss our March FIELD TRIPS! On **Saturday, March 6**, we are going to a location in southern Utah where a multitude of different cutting material

can be gathered. 500 million year old fossil clam shells and algae balls can be collected here which have been opalized and agatized into spotted peach, spotted red, blue/green, and blue grey colors. In addition specimens of selenite can also be found. Finally, wonderful white fossiliferous alabaster is also available which can be used for sculpting projects! **Meet at the Valley of Fire Exit off of I-15 (Moapa Smoke Shop) at 7AM.** 4 Wheel Drive Not needed, ordinary vehicles

will do just fine. On **Saturday March 13**, we are going to an area near the turn off to Laughlin on US95 to collect crystals and other things. **Meet in the parking lot of the Railroad Pass Casino at 7AM.** 4 wheel drive not needed. A potty tent will be available on both trips.....but here's an ole cowboy tip.....Don't Squat With Yer Spurs On!!

THERE WAS A CLUB MEMBER NAMED HUGHES

Who waited too long to pay dues,

She was struck off the roster,

Did not realize it cost'er

The workshop, club field trips and news.

By Peter Martin, from Calgary Lapidary Journal, 12/06

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Don't be like Hughes! Did you pay *your* dues?

Sunshine Report

Everyone is alive and well and enjoying life and it's adventures. If you have information on some one in the club, send an email to sngms_editor@yahoo.com.



**JENNA PLEIN
SILVERSMITH**

702.629.5467

silverclassesbyjenna@yahoo.com



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MARCH GEMS:

Pauline Antonakos
Marie-Antionette Arient
Billy Chapman
Patricia DeHaven
Joe Dodd
Robert Dodge
Mike Donaldson
Courtney Downs
Danny Edwards
Danny Fesler
Al Firebaugh
Tom Gergits
Monika Giles

Diane Gorny
Harry Graham
Jane Stern- Graham
Diane Hale
Michael Hardison
Benjamin Henry
Bob Hoving
Janet Klion
Thomas Lyons
Julie Michler
Andrew Miller
Cheryl Milne
Nancy Mitchell
Elana Paladino
Roland Parsons
Dennis Pearson
Diana Pearson
Shawna Rogers
Naomi Scott
Corinne Silvia
Stacy Simons
Kelly Sturdy
Florence Turner
Leon (Lee) Turner
Greg Wandtke
Lennon Zimmerman

New Members

Marie-Antionette Arient
Joan Burns
Sherri Cleveland
Belinda Freeman
Laura Geurs-Dalaimo
Jenna Hoffman
Kim Hoffman
Stephanie Isaacs
Samantha Jimimez-Hooks
Ada Joffrion
Jeff Jones
Nancy Kallman
Harvey J. Kapsner
Thomas Marshall

Donald Mitchell
Nancy Mitchell
Janet L. Nieman
Ronnie Tee Smith
Russell Stewart
Lori Stewart
Verne Stewart
Yeshi Woldehiwot
Patricia L. Wolf
Marti Zeigler
Eugene Zeigler
John Zimmerman Sr.
Lennon Zimmerman
Karen Zimmerman



Mario Salinas

P. O. Box 401296 • Las Vegas, Nevada 89140
Phone: 702.252.5001 • Fax: 702.220.5346

Rockhounds Glossary and Terms: For those of us who are new to the rockhounding arena we offer the following definition of terms you may encounter on your journeys.

Tosserite (pronounced *toss-er-right*) The name of this rock is usually followed by the word "there" and is usually one of the first rock in any rockhoulder's collection. A member of the Helifiino family of rocks and a relative of leaverite.

Shuddalefterite (pronounced *should-a-left-er-right*) The name of this rock is usually followed by the word "there" and is for a large, heavy rock that is carried a half way back to your vehicle when you are told that the rock is a relative of leaverite.

CLARK COUNTY FAIR 2010

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APRIL 8-11TH

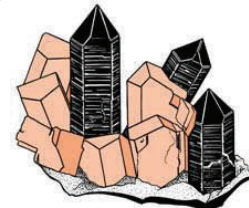
WE WILL HAVE A 10X20 BOOTH TO PROMOTE SNGMS!

CONTACT LISA ZIMMERMAN 616-0758

Info: www.ccfair.com



ROCK STARS' ROCK!



In March we will continue working on the Showmanship badge. We will work on putting together our display cases to display our rocks, gems, fossils, and rock art to take to the Clark County Fair in April. All children are welcome to participate and all ages are welcome. Our meetings will be on March 13th at 10am and March 20th at 11am at the shop. The March field trip will be in conjunction with the club field trip on March 6th. Please see the field trip section of the newsletter for more information. Our youth group is in need of adult helpers with all the activities coming up.....If you would like to help our youth....please contact Mary Beth Palladino. **The Rock Stars Want YOU!**



Show Chat - Volunteers Needed !!

The club will have a large booth at the Clark County

Fair being held on April 8 - 11 in Logandale, NV. If you can volunteer for one or more of the shifts shown in this table, please contact me at 616-0758. I will also have a shift sign-up sheet at the March meeting asking for volunteers to help set-up, staff the booth, and help to take down the displays. We also need volunteers to demonstrate silversmithing, faceting and cabing. This is going to be a great opportunity to show the community what the club has to offer and attract new members. For each shift you volunteer for, you will receive one ticket for the club raffle to be held at the conclusion of the fair. Hope to see you at the Fair.

Shift	Date	Time	Activity
1	Wednesday, 4/7	9 am to 1 pm	Setup
2		1 pm to 5 pm	Setup
3		5 pm to 9 pm	Setup
4	Thursday, 4/8	10 am to 2 pm	Show
5		2 pm to 6 pm	Show
6		6 pm to 10 pm	Show
7	Friday, 4/9	10 am to 2 pm	Show
8		2 pm to 6 pm	Show
9		6 pm to 11 pm	Show
10	Saturday, 4/10	10 am to 2 pm	Show
11		2 pm to 6 pm	Show
12		6 pm to 11 pm	Show
13	Sunday, 4/11	10 am to 3 pm	Show
14		3 pm to 8 pm	Show
15	Monday, 4/12	10 am to 3 pm	Tear Down



SNGMS Shop Talk - John Zimmerman, Shop Foreman

The shop is in a constant state of change and we are seeing new faces and the same faces more often. This is great too see and I take this as a sign that we are heading in the right direction. I would like to invite everyone to our second monthly **“Open House and Swap”** at the shop on Saturday, March 20 from 1pm to 5pm. So, if you are new to the club or just haven’t had a chance to come by the shop yet, this is your chance to stop by and see what the shop is all about, get rid of those extra slabs or rocks, check out what great deals you

can haggle over, have a burger or a hot dog, talk rocks or just hang out. If you would like to reserve a space to sell or swap your wears,

sign up at the March meeting or give me a call at 756-8044. I hope to see you down there.

We will be having a Shop Clean-Up Day on Sunday, March 21 at 8am. If you can volunteer some time to help clean up the inside and outside of the shop it would be greatly appreciated. We are going to paint, rearrange, reorganize, and some equipment maintenance.

On Saturday, March 27 we will have our first Shop Orientation Class at 11am. This class is mandatory for anyone who uses the shop. We will be offering this class on the last Saturday of every month so if you can’t make this months class, plan on attending one in the next few months.

To attend you just need to sign up at the meeting or give me a call.

I have included a table of the shop schedule for March. Stop by and cut a slab, shape a cab or just have a cup of coffee and chat.

Date	Time	Supervisor
3/2 Tuesday	1 to 5 p.m.	Dan & Teresa Nezgoda
	5 to 9 p.m.	Mike Kirk
3/4 Thursday	1 to 5 p.m.	Charles Huebler
	5 to 9 p.m.	Tom Skeary
3/6 Saturday	1 to 5 p.m.	Charles Huebler
	5 to 9 p.m.	John Zimmerman
3/9 Tuesday	1 to 5 p.m.	Dan & Teresa Nezgoda
	5 to 9 p.m.	Mike Kirk
3/11 Thursday	1 to 5 p.m.	Charles Huebler
	5 to 9 p.m.	Tom Skeary
3/13 Saturday	1 to 5 p.m.	John Zimmerman
	5 to 9 p.m.	Charles Huebler
3/16 Tuesday	1 to 5 p.m.	Dan & Teresa Nezgoda
	5 to 9 p.m.	Mike Kirk
3/18 Thursday	1 to 5 p.m.	Charles Huebler
	5 to 9 p.m.	Tom Skeary
3/20 Saturday	1 to 5 p.m.	OPEN HOUSE and SWAP John Zimmerman
	5 to 9 p.m.	Charles Huebler
3/23 Tuesday	1 to 5 p.m.	Dan & Teresa Nezgoda
	5 to 9 p.m.	Mike Kirk
3/25 Thursday	1 to 5 p.m.	Charles Huebler
	5 to 9 p.m.	Tom Skeary
3/27 Saturday	11 to 1 p.m.	Shop Orientation John Zimmerman
	1 to 5 p.m.	John Zimmerman
	5 to 9 p.m.	Charles Huebler

Field Trip, Saturday, February 13

On February 13, 22 cars headed south towards Searchlight for a whirlwind trip to three locations to find treasure. At the first stop, the rolling hills provided collectors with amazing samples that included amber and red colored samples of chalcedony along with the typical milky white. On the second stop, we searched for red jasper, chalcedony roses and chalcedony geodes. The red jasper formed into tumble size rocks with mini quartz crystals on the surface (check out the small bubbly samples with a magnifying glass). The final stop was to search for quartz crystals. Many found crystals loose on the ground. Bill worked his backside off and dug up some especially nice crystals that he shared with others on the trip. The weather was perfect and the sun was shining, it was a beautiful day to be out, not to



mention - the hunting was great too. Hope to see y'all on the March field trips.

SHOW AND SELL Prior to the General Meeting on March 1, 2010

We had such a good time last month we decided to do it again. Tables will be provided in the Sun Room of our meeting area from **5-6 PM** before the general meeting. If you are just displaying specimens, there is no charge. If you are selling items, a nominal fee of \$5 will be collected before set up.

Here's your chance to show and/or sell those wonderful creations! Contact Lisa Zimmerman for more information. **616-0758**

Membership

March is the last month to renew memberships for 2010. After that, if you have not renewed, then you will be dropped off the newsletter list and taken off the ship roster. There are membership forms at the shop for everyone's convenience. Badges were ordered and will be dropped off at the shop as soon as Abbott Trophy calls me to let me know that they are done. We have many badges, which have not been picked up during the last year. Stop by the shop if you think that you may have one there. If you want a badge, you can order at the shop by leaving a check for \$10.00 and write how you want your name to appear.

Shop Open House, Saturday, February 20th - Thanks to everyone who stopped by. We had a great time. Talked to a lot of great people, at some good food, cut some good rock, sold some club merchandise, signed up some new members, and renewed friendships with members I hadn't seen in awhile, what more could you want. If you didn't make it down this month you will have a chance to join us March 20th from 1 to 5 PM at the shop. Stop by, check out the changes at the shop, get some instruction on some equipment, have some grub, check out what everyone is selling, sell some of your creations or just pull up a chair and join one of the conversations. Hope to see you there. John



Donations to the Club

We have been blessed this past month by the "rock fairy"! She made sure we had some great rock to bring to the workshop for members to purchase. Scott & Brenda Ewers in Boulder City donated rocks and tables that belonged to their dad, Grant Ewers. So "git on down there" and get the good stuff! You'll find obsidian, abalone shell, agates, geodes, apache tears, crazy lace, chalcedony rose, and much more!! We also have some equipment and an array of lapidary & rock and gem magazines that Dave Finch donated. Thanks Dave! We appreciate all you do for us. The magazines will be for sale at the shop. Sshhh.....don't let this secret out, but we have some opals in the rough that will be available for purchase at the shop and a couple will be on the raffle table. These are Australian and Mexican Fire Opal donated by the Ewers.

FIRST FRIDAY

First Friday was a no-go in February, due to rain, which was too bad as Sheila Tremmel, Doris Currington and I spent all day Friday sorting product and cleaning at the shop. The good news is we are all organized for the upcoming sales events. Next month's First Friday will be on March 5th, the Friday after the March meeting. Come on down to the workshop and help guide visitors around and introduce them to our passion, or set up shop and sell your own art creations and rocks, or just sit a spell and share some tall tales about your rockhounding adventures! Fun 4 all ..GUARANTEED

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Upcoming Shows

NEVADA

Clark County Fair & Rodeo, Logandale

April 8 - 11

ARIZONA

**Gems of Arizona "Wonderful World of
Rocks and Minerals"** Kingman, AZ

April 10—11

CALIFORNIA

AFMS/CFMS 2010 Gem Show

June 18 - 20



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756-8044**

Equipment Use Rates

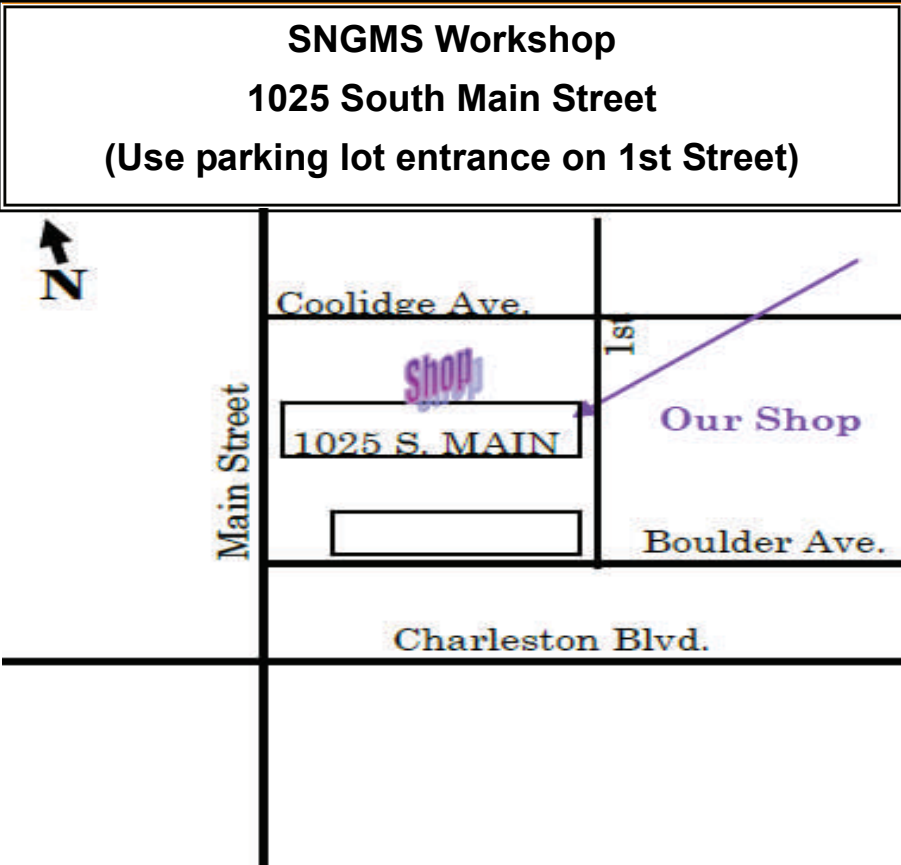
Genie	\$3 per hour
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Slab Saws \$3 per hour

Geode Saw	\$3 per hour
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Flat Lap \$5 per hour

Trim Saws \$1 per hour



SNGMS General Meeting
Monday, March 1, 2010

Monday, March 1, 2010

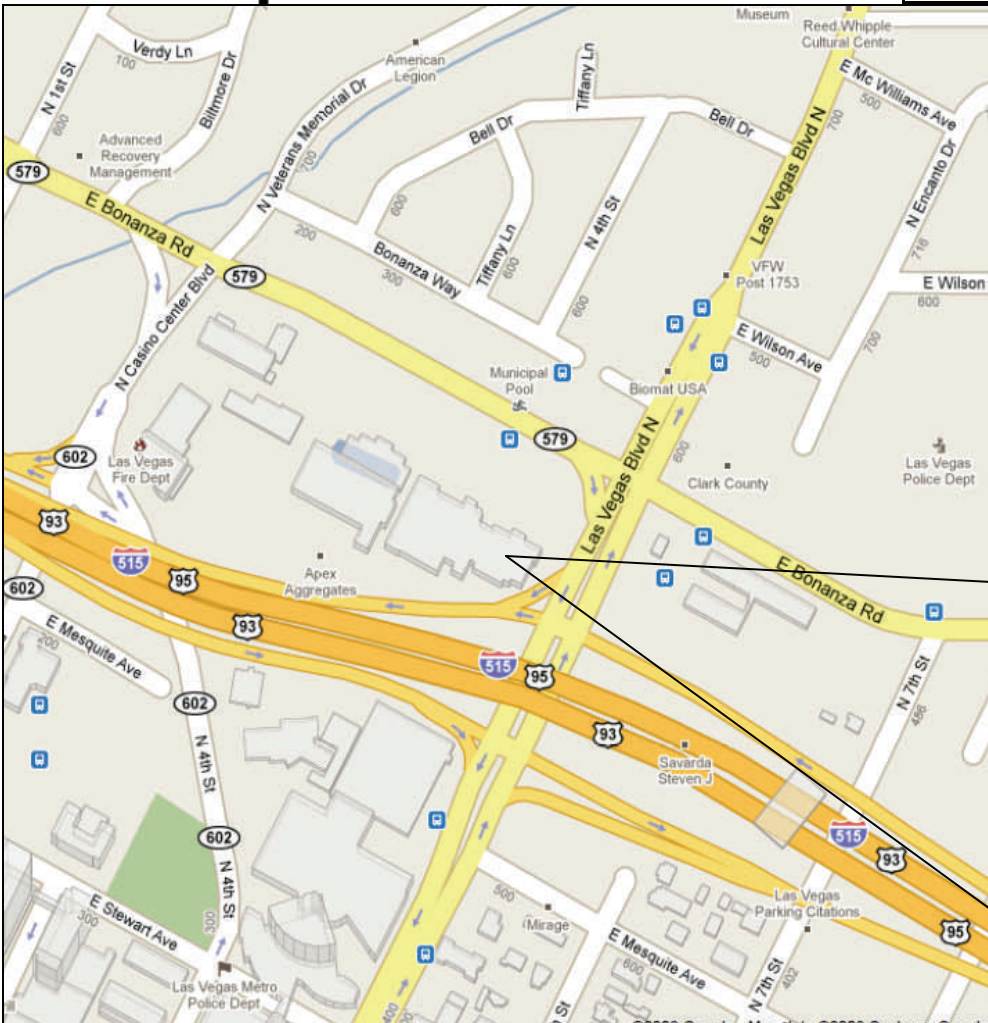
451 East Bonanza Road

Las Vegas, NV

(702) 229-6454

Show and Sell 5 - 6 P.M.

Meeting 6 - 8 P.M.



Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society

P.O. Box 94744

Las Vegas, NV 89193-4744

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Return Service Requested



The Polished Slab is available online at www.sngms.com and our Facebook page.

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.

Club Mascot: Rock Wren

Club Gemstone: Turquoise

Club Logo: Rocks-R-Us

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in: Rocks, Gems, Geology, Fossils, Lapidary Arts or Silversmithing

Annual Dues: Individual - \$20; Family - \$30

Meetings are held the first Monday of the month at the Senior Center at 451 Bonanza Road which is on the southwest corner of the intersection of Bonanza Road and Las Vegas Blvd. No Meeting is held in December instead we have our annual awards dinner.

Visitors are always welcome and bring a friend or two.

Polished Slab Advertising Rates

Ad Size	Six Months	Yearly
Business Card	\$18	\$30
Quarter Page	\$48	\$90
Half Page	\$90	\$170
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