



THE POLISHED SLAB

Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society



June 2019

A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUNDS SINCE 1940

Volume 79 Issue 6

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jun 3rd - General Mtg
Jun 27th - Board Mtg
Jul 1st - General Mtg
Aug 1st - Board Mtg
Aug 5th - General Mtg

See page 8 for details on
scheduled classes and
instructor contact information

SNGMS Contact :
sngms2013@gmail.com
702 561-3086
www.snvngms.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To all SNGMS Members:

Some sad news. We recently lost a great friend and club member Don Evans. He was also a member of the GPAA. He will be sorely missed by all. Our prayers go out to his family. Don was just getting to where he could again go out on field trips. He had been dealing with a lot of back pain.

June 2 field trip. Del Walkenshaw and Chops Wenzl setup and scouted the trip to Broken Arrow and Tree Frog Mines near Tonopah, NV. It was a great trip and everyone seemed to have collected a lot of Variscite and some Turquoise. It rained and the wind blew hard the day before, but Sunday was a nice day with lots of sun and the temperature was very pleasant.

We've had some great field trips this year, but now with Summer approaching with the heat it will curtail some of the trips until it cools down. We're working on some day outings here in the valley during the summer and more field trips in the fall. Keep and eye out for the SNGMS emails and also check your spam in case they go there. Also keep checking our monthly newsletter, the Polished Slab.

The 2nd, 3rd and 4th of August is the Rocky Mountain Federation Convention and Show in Prescott Valley, Arizona. We would like as many members as possible to attend to make a good showing for our Club. Don't forget to make a reservation for the meetings and hotels and take plenty of pictures while there.

We're planning on going back to Fallon, NV, October 24th-27th and have some new places scouted out as well as some of the old favorites. There's a RV park in town, plenty of motels, and good places to eat. It's a very good trip so mark your calendar and don't miss out.

We gained New Members again this month and I want to give them a warm welcome. We are a club of friends and have fun in whatever we do. Never can have too many friends. Hope they tell their friends about us also.

I want to thank all the members for all the hard work they've put in this year. It shows! We had a great Spring Jamboree and fun field trips. Also the shop is taking on a new look due to Kerry Chop Wentz's management and his crew. Thank you very much.

Bob Belcher, President, SNGMS, June 2019

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Field Trips	2
Shop Talk	3
General Meeting	5
Kids Club	6
Education Activities	
Shop Talk (continued)	7
SNGMS Meeting dates & Directions to	6
Classes	8
Shop Information	9
Birthday, New Members and	10
Upcoming Events	11

Field Trips & Events

June 2nd, 2019: Tonopah, NV, (Fee Dig) Broken Arrow & Tree Frog Mines (Turquoise, Variscite)

August 2-4, 2019, RMFMS Show: Prescott, AZ

October 24th (In Conjunction with the Fallon Field Trip: (Fee Dig) Tonopah, NV, Broken Arrow, Tree Frog and White Buffalo Mines

October 24th –27th, 2019: Fallon, NV area for agates, jaspers, fossils and wonderstone.

November 2nd, 2019: 2nd Annual Green Valley Parking Lot Event

November 9th, 2019, Ludlow, CA: Newberry Nodules, Agate, Japer Hill



Outings Being Considered (Dates to Be Determined):

Pahrump Winery Tour & Lunch (July)

Tony Milici Studio Tour (August)

Pine Valley, UT Field Trip for Jasper (September)

UNLV Geology Department (???)

Photos from the June 2nd Field Trip to Tonopah, NV, Broken Arrow Mine:

(Photos Courtesy of Darrell Wilk)



SNGMS Board meeting minutes for 05/30/2019

On May 30th, 2019, the regular Board of Directors meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 6:00 PM by the President. The Secretary was present. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited.

The minutes of the April 25th, 2019 meeting were approved as read.

The treasurer reported balances and reinvestment of maturing bonds was discussed.

Shop Report: All equipment is up and running. A shop clean up is scheduled for June 9th at 9 AM.

SNGMS received a generous donation of jewelry, rocks, and equipment from Don Evan's estate and the Board decided that the jewelry making equipment will be used by the metal smithing class and other items will be used for the raffle table and the Chinese auction.

Sonya Edwards discussed audio visual equipment needs and after input from the Board will continue evaluating equipment and make recommendations for purchase. The equipment will be in the charge of a committee who will maintain and operate it for club use. She also discussed an updated website and the Board agreed with her recommendation to switch to a different host to take advantage of their website building tools and allow easier website modifications and updates.

The SNGMS policy for use of shop equipment by younger children was discussed and an agreement was reached. Lorrilee Stackhouse will draft a statement of the policy and after approval it will be published.

Del Walkenshaw reported that the parking lot will be available for the November 2nd sale.

Bruce Martin proposed, seconded by Del Walkenshaw and approved by the Board, that "the meeting be adjourned."

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Shop Talk: How to stabilize your slabs and cabs, by Peggy Sue and Bill Moore

When we first started making cabochons, we, like everyone else, were frustrated with material that was too soft or unstable to hold together.

We first tried Opticon. We bought a little toaster oven to process slabs and cabochons, but were not happy with the results as it never hardened to our satisfaction.

The best advice we received came from our friends in Kingman, AZ, who were into working with turquoise. We followed their advice and have worked out how to get the most out of our efforts.

Here is how it works:

Use all of the two ½ oz. tubes of Epoxy 330, or equivalent from the larger bottles, by mixing it a wide mouth glass with something like a popsicle stick.

Add approximately 1 cup of acetone. Mix this together until fully blended. Put in your cabochons and/or slabs, making sure that your material is covered by the liquid.

Cover the jar tightly with the lid and put it into a refrigerator for 1 week. Each day I pick it up and slosh everything around to make sure that the mix is getting everywhere on the slabs and cabochons. The reason you keep it in the refrigerator is to retard the hardening process and allow the epoxy to penetrate into the material.



(Continued On Page 7)

*Discounts Available with your
SNGMS membership*

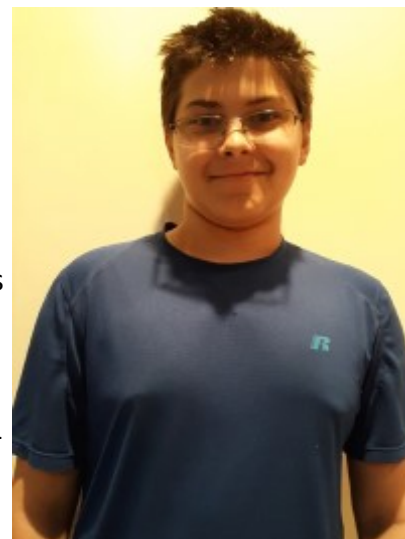
All the establishments featured on page 4 offer discounts to SNGMS members. Be sure to show your membership card when making a purchase, and say that the Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society sent you!



Junior Rockhound of the Year :

Aiden Kerr

On behalf of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society Kids Club and Rock Stars I would like to nominate Aiden Kerr as Junior Rockhound of the Year. Aiden is a 9th grader at Centennial High School. Ever since Aiden joined the Gem Club he has been so enthusiastic that it is catchy and the other children have been infected with his love of rocks. Aiden often takes the lead and is very helpful in assisting me carry rocks and supplies, set up, and clean up at the meetings. He retains the information presented to the Kids Club and when we are reviewing he usually has the answer. Aiden and his brother are often first to the top of the hill or first to find the specimens we went for on our field trips. He shows others where to find them or offers one of his. Aiden is respectful to older rockhounds, helping if he can. Environmental awareness is another quality he has. He has shared and continues to share his extra rocks with the Kids Club. You can always count on Aiden to assist at our annual club show manning the Kids Booth.



For those reasons, I'm happy to present **Aiden Kerr** for Junior Rockhound of the Year.

Mary Beth Paladino
Kids Club & Rockstar Coordinator

SNGMS General meeting minutes for 06/03/2019

On June 3rd, 2019, the regular meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 6:00 PM by the President. The Secretary was present. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited.

We were honored by a visit from Matt Charsky, former AFMS President, who gave a short talk.

The minutes of the May 6th, 2019 meeting were approved as read.

The treasurer reported account balances.

Membership: John Stackhouse reports 393 adult and 57 child members.

Del Walkenshaw discussed the Tonopah field trip which had 29 participants. It will be repeated in October in conjunction with the planned Fallon trip. A possible field trip to Utah for jasper in September is being evaluated.

Sheri Johnson reported on the Spring Jamboree 2019 show. The new organization and new events were a success. She thanked all the volunteers for their efforts. Plans for the 2020 show will start with meetings in September.

Metal smithing classes continue on Tuesdays. There will be a beading class on the second Monday this month, and two wire wrapping projects led by Peggy Sue Moore. Faceting classes continue on Saturdays with Tom Kidwell leading. Class information will continue to be emailed to membership.

Kids Club: Mary Beth Paladino reports that there will be a chemistry demonstration at the June Kid's Club meeting.

Shop: There is a doorbell at the shop now. If you arrive after 5 PM and the door is locked, ring the bell for admittance. All equipment is running. There will be a shop clean up on June 9th at 9 AM, come down and help!

Any suggestions for improvement of the club and/or shop are appreciated and should be addressed to the President, Bob Belcher.

The Rocky Mountain Federation convention and show will be in Prescott Valley on August 2-4. If anyone wants to enter a showcase but cannot attend it can be set up by those who are attending.

Sunshine: Beth Jones reports that Bill Wertz was in the shop despite his continuing medical problems and said to tell everyone "Hi." Gary Webb is having some small medical problems. Mick Sprott was at the meeting and feeling better after his hospitalization. Barbara Belcher is having shoulder replacement surgery next week.

Cab Contest winners were: First Place – Debbie Bucknam, Second Place – Ron Mazz.

Bill Moore proposed, seconded by Peggy Sue Moore, and approved by the membership that, "the meeting be adjourned." The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 PM.

Birthstones for the Month of June are Pearl, Moonstone and Alexandrite:

Pearl is a hard glistening object produced within the soft tissue of a living shelled mollusk or another animal. It actually belongs to the marine animal kingdom, but most people consider them precious stones. A pearl is composed of calcium carbonate (CaCO_3) in minute crystalline form, which has been deposited in concentric layers. A pearl necklace is believed to warn sensitive people of imminent danger.

Moonstone is a sodium potassium aluminum silicate with the chemical formula $(\text{Na,K})\text{AlSi}_3\text{O}_8$ and belongs to the feldspar group. Moonstone has been used in jewelry for millennia, including ancient civilizations. The Romans admired moonstone, as they believed it was born from solidified rays of the Moon. It has always been the stone of love and lovers.

Alexandrite belong to the chrysoberyl family (BeAl_2O_4) with a hardness of 8.5 on the Mohs scale. The three main varieties of chrysoberyl are: ordinary yellow-to-green chrysoberyl, cat's eye and alexandrite. Alexandrite will show emerald green, red and orange-yellow colors depending on viewing direction in partially polarized light. It promotes inner harmony, joy and cheerfulness for the wearer.

SNGMS 2019 Meetings

Jan 03 Board	Jul 01 General
07 General	Aug 01 Board
Jan 31 Board	05 General
Feb 04 General	Sep 05 Board
28 Board	09 General
Mar 04 General	Oct 03 Board
28 Board	07 General
Apr 01 General	24 Board
25 Board	Nov 04 General
May 06 General	21 Board
30 Board	Dec (Annual
Jun 03 General	Awards Banquet)
27 Board	

Board Meetings at Shop, 3111 Valley View Blvd. Bldg. E. Suite 125, General Meetings at Eagles Lodge, 1601 E. Washington Ave.

SNGMS General Meeting

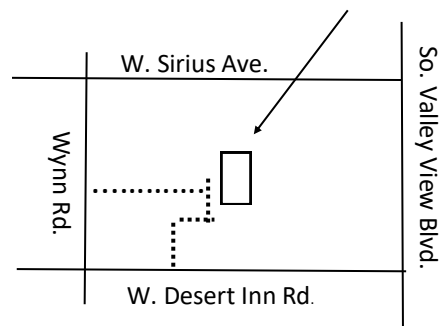
1st Monday of every month
(2nd Monday if holiday falls on the first Monday) No meeting in December.

Non-members welcome!

Eagles Lodge 1601 E Washington Ave.

Show & Sell 5-6 PM
General Meeting 6-8 PM

**3111 So. Valley View Blvd,
Building E Shop Suite 125**

**Finding the Shop Location**

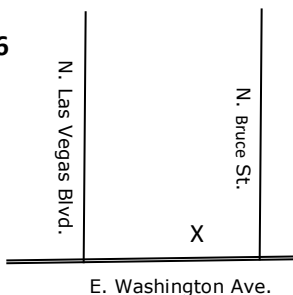
Proceeding west on Desert Inn Road, take the first right past So. Valley View Blvd. into the industrial park area. Drive past the building on your right, then jog right, then left and you will be in front of Building E. Another option is to enter off of Wynn Rd. Go

west on Desert Inn Rd. to Wynn Rd., turn right onto Wynn Rd. and go to the first entrance on the right (past the BIG white Commercial building sign) turn right and straight in front of you is Building E #125.

SNGMS Contact: 702 561-3086

sngms2013@gmail.com

www.snvgms.org

**Finding the General Meeting Location**

Eagles Lodge #1213

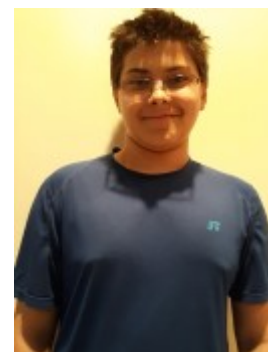
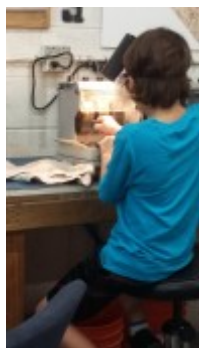
1601 E Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, NV

(702) 642-1213

KIDS CLUB / EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

The Kids Club meets on the second Sunday of most months at the SNGMS Shop from 3-5. As always, for more information, or to volunteer to lead an activity, or to help with an educational even

The first 3 pictures are of Liam Kerr working on the cab machine and the cabs he and Aiden made. The last photo is of Aiden who is nominated as Junior Rockhound of the year.



This Month's Meeting, June 9th, will be a Chemistry Demonstration.

(continued from pg 3)

Shop Talk How to stabilize your slabs and cabs, by Peggy Sue and Bill Moore

When you take it out at the end of the week, place the items on a cookie cooling rack or a classifier and let dry for a day in the sun. You can now add a second batch of slabs and cabs to your jar of left over liquid. I usually run batches in the same liquid until I don't think it is working any more, at which time I put in more epoxy mix.



I have had great success with this process but remember, some material is just too crumbly to work with, no matter what you do.

See Del at Desert Art Supplies for the epoxy, as he carries the larger bottles.

I'd like to add a couple of things to the above great article. First when drying the stones I transfer the liquid to another bottle, I empty the turquoise into an aluminum pie plate lined with baking parchment paper. The stabilized turquoise doesn't stick to the paper as it dries. And like Peggy Sue mentioned, I place the pie plate out in the sun, occasionally stirring the stones until dry. No sticky mess.

I've tried another epoxy (ArtResin) and have had very good success using the same stabilizing techniques. I do thin the solution a little more and go two weeks in the refrigerator. I'm able to get four to five stabilized batches out of the same mixture before it gels. The one thing I did notice is that the Epoxy 330 Part B Hardener has a darker amber color whereas the ArtResin's is clear. (Del Walkenshaw)



Art Resin

More Photos of the Broken Arrow Mine Outing: (Photos courtesy of Darrel Wilk & Del Walkenshaw)



Classes

Wire wrapping, led by Peggy Sue Moore or Scott Edwards and Ananaka Rau, meets on most Mondays (except for the General Meeting night). Hours for the class are 5 - 8 PM. The fee is \$5.00 for the shop and \$1.00 pattern fee.

Beading: Gary Webb and Sue Dobson will be hosting the beading class. Classes will be the 2nd Monday of the month at 5 pm.

Metal and Silver Smithing, Scott Edwards and Ananaka Rau have changed the Metal & Silver smithing class from Saturday mornings to Tuesday evenings from 5 pm to 8 pm. The class is suitable for beginners, intermediate and advanced students. The shop is now opened Tuesdays from 1 pm to 5 pm for regular shop usage.

Faceting classes. Saturdays 9 am to 12 pm. Please contact Peggy Sue Moore moorepeggysue@gmail.com) in advance to see if a machine is available. Class fee is \$10.00 plus a \$5.00 fuel fund for the instructor, Tom Kidwell.

Wire wrapping, metal smithing, flint knapping, and silver smithing have a very modest donation of \$5.00 per session, that goes to the club. Faceting class fee is \$10.00 plus a \$5.00 fuel fund for the instructor. Other class donations may vary, depending on what is included in the class. All donations go to SNGMS, all instructors volunteer their time and expertise to help extend the knowledge of our members.



Sunshine Report

from Beth Jones

Please if you hear of any SNGMS member in need of a bit of sunshine due to accident, illness, death in the family or other need, call Beth Jones at 702-505-5819 or email her at Punkyjones@hotmail.com

(please put SNGMS Sunshine in the Subject)

Bill Wertz is still battling blood clots in his legs but stopped by the shop to say "Hi to All."

Gary Webb is recovering from a bout with pneumonia.

Bruce Martin's eye surgery went well and he's back supervising and rock hunting.

Barbara Belcher is scheduled for left shoulder surgery this month. Speedy recovery Barbara.

Kathy Mundine is going to have her right shoulder replaced. Wish Kathy a speedy recovery also.



SHOP INFORMATION

“New” SNGMS Workshop Schedule

SHOP HOURS

Sunday 12 pm to 5 pm

Monday Closed

Tuesday 1 pm to 4:30 pm

Wednesday 12 pm to 9 pm

Thursday 12 pm to 9 pm

Friday 12 pm to 9 pm

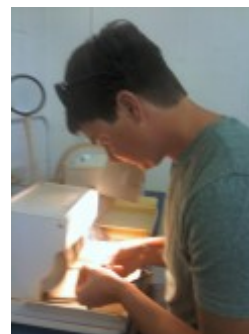
Saturday 12 pm to 6 pm

SHOP CLOSED :

- 2nd Sunday of every Month For Kids Club 2 pm to 5 pm
- Board Meeting: Various Thursday Nights 6 pm to Approx 7 pm
- Check Email and “Polished Slab” for possible date changes.



Photos courtesy of Caitly Stackhouse



2019 Monthly Cabochon Contest:

(National & State Parks)

Jun	Red Rock Canyon
July	National Mall
Aug	Grand Canyon
Sep	Yellowstone
Oct	Redwoods
Nov	Channel Islands
Dec	(None - Awards Banquet)

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE CABOCHON CONTEST YOU MUST HAVE AT LEAST ONE HOUR OF SHOP TIME. THE WINNERS RECEIVE FREE

SHOP TIME. A “*The National Mall*” cabochon will be the contest entry to be judged at the July’s general meeting.

Good Luck!

Congratulations to the Winners of June’s “Red Rock Canyon” Cabochon Contest.

1st Place: Debbie Bucknam



2nd Place: Ron Mazz



Please, **under no circumstances**, park in front of Unit 124 or Unit 126 (the units next to the Shop). The owners of the units come in at odd hours and need access to their parking spaces. There is ample parking across from the Shop that is not in front of any unit.



Happy Birthdays!

June

Linda Arnold, Frank Auerswald, Sr., Susan Ayers, Lisa Blount, Bonnie Brown, Roberto Calvera, John Cox, Claudia Crouse, Sahika Girmay, Goldfinger, Hubert Goodrich, Bill Hildebrandt, Margaret Johnson, Sheri Johnson, Barry King, Michael Kirk, Gregory Klund, Mark Leppert, Linda Martin, Madeleine Masters, Livyana Muniz, Morgana Muniz, Wayne Muth, Destry Myers, Naomi Nozoe, Mary Beth Paladino, Delwin Potter, Jacob Rand, Collin Reinke, Robert Riemer, Gail Seidner, Jada Summer, Jim Switalla, Gail Wisniewski, Vincent Zebrowski.

July

If you have a July birthday please bring something for the refreshment table at the July meeting.

Cindy Allison, Robert Bennett, Joseph Boisvenu, Julie Cooley, Scott Edwards, Anthony Fetcho, Jacqueline Gerideau, Dennis Golden, Ed Gundlach, Rob Hernquist, Carole Hinds, Luigi Iamele, Evelyn Irving, Devynn Johnson, Moreen Johnston, Jim Jones, Joanna Koss, Thomas Lawlor, James Leader, Brian Lundberg, Javette Mackay, Katherine Matthews, George Messenger, Kyle Mills, Vida Moore, Alejandro Muniz, Nelson Muniz, Winston O'Rourke, Sharon Perales, Kiera Rand, Chase Richins, Owen Robertson, Francelia Roman de Gallup, Mary Switalla, Melissa Treagre, Lori Weddle, Kim Wenzl, Orville Wiemers.

Welcome New Members!

***A hearty welcome to members who joined or rejoined SNGMS.
We look forward to getting to know you better***

Peyman Ali Rassa, Scott Arnold, Richard Baugh, Joshua Contois, Colleen Flansaas, Greg Flansaas, Goldfinger, Andrea Gundlach, Ed Gundlach, Julie Hall, Dustin Hinds, Talus Hinds, Torsten Hinds, Rochelle Hinds, Gregory Klund, April Koebeke, Ayla Koebeke, Sage Koebeke, James Leader, Carrie Long, Deborah Lucas, Mat Matzek, Sue Matzek, Winston O'Rourke, Becki Ortiz, Eddie Ortiz, Amber Palecek, Stephen Palecek, Suzanna Pearson, Colin Reinke, Jerry Riley, Dale Robertson, Erik Robertson, Owen Robertson, Rachel Robertson, Renate Robertson, Ann Runion, Brett Runion, Joshua Runion, Kaleb Runion, Kaitlyn Salgado, Luke Salgado, Stormie Sozzoni, Kelly Stacy, Gina West.

2019 Board of Directors

President: Bob Belcher 702 210-9612
[bbecccher75@gmail.com](mailto:bbeccher75@gmail.com)

Vice-President: Sheri Johnson 702 525-0256
SherisRocks89121@gmail.com

Secretary: Lorrilee Stackhouse lorrilee@cox.net

Treasurer: Bill Moore SNGMSTreasurer@gmail.com

Parliamentarian: Ananaka Rau aaarau3@yahoo.com

One Year Board Remaining: Jason Fabbi
jhfstones@yahoo.com

Two Year Board Remaining: Del Walkenshaw
desertartsupply@aol.com

Three Year Board: Bruce Martin
brucemartinlv@yahoo.com

One Year Board: Peggy Sue Moore
moorepeggysue@gmail.com

Committee Chairperson

Bulletin.....Del Walkenshaw & Deb Koladziej
desertartsupply@aol.com

Communications.....Del Walkenshaw sngmsnews@gmail.com

Federation.....Sheri Johnson 702 525-0256

Alt. Federation.....Peggy Sue Moore

Field Trip.....Peggy Sue Moore & Bill Wertz

Shop Foreman Kerry "Choppers" Wenzl

Historian.....Jack Toogood

Hospitality.....Deb Bucknam grandmadeb10@gmail.com

Inventory.....Frank Timbers ftimbers@centurylink.net

Librarian..... Mario Luchetta

Membership..... John Stackhouse 702-239-0437

New Member Liaison... Barbara Belcher

Program..... Cindy Allison

Publicity.....Scott Edwards memulld@yahoo.com

Raffle.....Barbara Belcher & Kerry Wenzl

50-50 Raffle.....Orville and Lisa Wiemers

Refreshments..... Pat Skeary

Rock Stars.....Mary Beth Paladino.....702-255-1647

Show Chairperson.....Sheri Johnson 702 525-0256

Sunshine.....Beth Jones punkyjones@hotmail.com
 702-505-5819

Webmaster.....Sonya Edwards film4christ@gmail.com

SNGMS Contact: 702 561-3086
sngms2013@gmail.com
www.snvgms.org

Contact any Board member to volunteer for a position, or a Committee Chairman to offer to help on their committee.

UPCOMING EVENTS

There are rock clubs throughout the United States and the computer is your friend in finding information about clubs and shows. Just search for the area you are interested in and rock club and you should find plenty to keep you busy, wherever you are going.

Rocky Mountain Federation Show: Aug 2-4, Prescott, Az



Some links that you may find helpful:

American Federation Of Mineralogical Societies-

<http://www.amfed.org>

California Federation -

<http://www.cfmsinc.org/>

Rocky Mountain Federation -

<http://www.rmfmms.org>

and the Rock & Gem website -

<http://www.rockngem.com/show-dates-display/?>

[ShowState=ALL](#)

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

Return Service Requested



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 - \$25; Family - \$35

Meetings are held the first Monday of the month at the
Eagles Lodge #1213, 1601 E Washington

No meeting is held in December. Instead we have our
annual awards dinner.

**POLISHED SLAB
ADVERTISING RATES**

<i>Ad Size</i>	<i>Six Months</i>	<i>Yearly</i>
<i>Business Card</i>	<i>\$18</i>	<i>\$30</i>
<i>Quarter Page</i>	<i>\$48</i>	<i>\$90</i>
<i>Half Page</i>	<i>\$90</i>	<i>\$170</i>
<i>Full Page</i>	<i>\$150</i>	<i>\$275</i>