



The Polished Slab

Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society



January 2014

A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUNDS SINCE 1940

Volume 74 Issue 1

Upcoming Events

Jan 30 – Board Meeting

Feb 3 - General Meeting

See calendar on page 4 for shop hours, classes, trips, meetings, and other SNGMS events and classes

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

Inside this issue:

General Meeting Summary 3

Calendar 4

Bulletin Board 5

SNGMS Meeting dates & Directions to Shop 7

Classes 8

Kids Club 8

Shop Report 9

Birthday, New Members and Sunshine 10

Upcoming Shows 11

President's Message

from Sue Moore

Egads, Winter has hit Las Vegas. There was ice on my pool yesterday! Luckily, it got up into the 60's in the back yard so it melted off right away. Bottom line...this is the best rock-hounding weather in the great southwest. It is also great shopping weather for Quartzsite so try to make it down there by the end of the month before vendors leave and go to Tucson.

For everyone who was unable to attend the January Meeting, I want to let you know who your committee chairpersons are for 2014:

Bulletin – Theresa Brooks

Webmaster – Jack Toogood

Program – Cindy Allison

Hospitality – Sheri Johnson

Publicity – Scott Edwards

Raffle – Tom Skeary

50/50 Raffle – Joanne and Mick Sprott

Refreshments – Ann Harris

Inventory – Frank Timbers

General Shop Formen – Chuck Higley and Johnny Miller

Membership – Lorrilee Stackhouse

Federation Director and Alternate Federation Director – Sheri Johnson and Mary Beth Paladino

Field Trip Chairman – James Sloan

Show Chairman – Sheri Johnson

Junior Member/Rock Stars & Education – Mary Beth Paladino

New Member Liaison – Tony Duran

Financial Advisor – George Messenger

Sunshine – Dottie Auerswald

President's Message - Cont.

Thank you to all of these volunteers for their service to the club. I especially want to thank John Stackhouse and Scott Edwards for all of their work in the shop in 2013 and for their continuous efforts as Shop Supervisors in 2014. For everyone who volunteers their precious time and efforts to SNGMS, thank you.

Cliff Jackson has an offer you can't refuse if you enjoy fluorescing. Way Too Cool brand light, charger and battery for \$245.00. This model usually goes for around \$600.00 so call Cliff at (702) 292-7938. He wants to get this first order by January 13th, so get with him ASAP.

**Dues are due by
January 31st**



Shop Contest for January! Rules are as follows:

Entrant must have at least 1 hour shop usage in January. Verifiable by shop foremen.

Round cabochon (50 cent or dollar size)

Winner is the Cabochon which looks the most like a planet.

Judging will take place at the February meeting as a blind entry. Voting will be by the general membership at the February meeting. Prize to the winner will be a unique rough rock from Quartzsite.

Final item...if you want a booth in the convention center at the St. Patrick Day Festival in Henderson, you must get in touch with the City of Henderson, Attention: Annette Mullins, (702) 267-2171 and complete your entry by February 6th. The center will be open Saturday and Sunday during the festival for a low cost of \$50.00 for the weekend.

Board Meeting Summary - January 2, 2014

SNGMS Board meeting minutes for 1/2/2014

On January 2nd, 2014, the regular Board of Directors meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 5:55 PM by the president. The secretary was present. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited. The minutes of the October 24th, 2013 meeting were approved as read.

The treasurer gave her report: The net income for December was positive.

Unfinished Business:

We still need property insurance for shop equipment.

New Business:

Chair appointment for 2014 were discussed.

Mary Beth Paladino discussed the American Federation/Rocky Mountain Federation combined show to be held in Tulsa Oklahoma in July and the opportunity for our club to provide a showcase for display there.

Board Meeting Summary Cont.

Having a monthly shop contest to promote the use of shop equipment was discussed.

Equipment and repair parts needed in the shop were discussed. Pat Skeary proposed, seconded by Sheri Johnson, and approved by the Board "That not more than \$700.00 be spent for discussed shop repairs."

Sheri Johnson proposed, seconded by Lorrilee Stackhouse, and approved by the Board "That up to \$400.00 be allowed for Tom Skeary to purchase raffle table items in Quartzsite."

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 PM.

General Meeting Summary - January 6, 2014

On January 6th, 2014, the regular meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 5:57 PM by the president. The secretary was present. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited.

The minutes of the November 4th, 2013 meeting were approved as read.

Committee Reports:

The treasurer gave her report: The net income for December was positive.

The committee chairs for 2014 were announced. Many chairs are continuing from 2013, new chairs include: Program – Cindy Allison, Hospitality – Sheri Johnson, Refreshments – Ann Harris, Shop Foreman – Chuck Higley and Johnny Miller, Membership – Lorrilee Stackhouse, Federation – Sheri Johnson with Mary Beth Paladino as alternate, Field Trip – James Sloan, Show – Sheri Johnson, New Member Liason – Tony Duran

Federation Chair reports that a combined American and Rocky Mountain Federation show will be held in Tulsa OK in July 2014. SNGMS members are encouraged to attend. The club will be creating a 'Rocks of Nevada' showcase to display at the show.

Cliff Jackson has offered to organize night field trips for fluorescents and has organized a group buy of long/short wave lights suitable for the purpose.

The summer camping trip will be to Lund NV and camping will be available at Bill Kogan's place. Motel rooms in Lund are available at Lane's Motel for non-campers. Field trips in the area will be for jasper and bullseye rhyolite.

Sunshine: Rita Bergeron was at the meeting and is recovering from a fall. Cathy Carrabis has been in the hospital. Athena Manasses is at home with cracked ribs following a car accident. Tony Duran also had a fall with cracked ribs and broken bones in his hand.

Classes – Instructors discussed upcoming classes.

New Business:

There will be a shop contest monthly. January contest is for a round cab that looks most like a planet. You must have paid for at least one hour of equipment use in the shop to qualify you to enter. The cabs will be voted on at the February meeting and the prize will be a nice piece of rough.

Upcoming Events

Please contact Sue Moore to establish the 1st quarter field trips. We welcome all requests and suggestions.

Quartzsite Show and Swapmeet:

January 1 - February 28, 2014 Admission: All shows free and open to the public

January 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
12 Faceting 9 Kid's Club 3-5	13 Wire Wrapping 5	14 Silver Smithing 5-8	15 Shop 12-9	16 Metalsmithing 3-10	17 Shop 12-8	18 Shop 10-6
19 Faceting 9	20	21 Silver Smithing 5-8	22 Shop 12-9	23 Metalsmithing 3-10	24 Shop 12-8	25 Shop 10-6
26 Faceting 9	27 Wire Wrapping 5 Polymer Clay 2-5	28 Silver Smithing 5-8	29 Shop 12-9	30 Board Meeting 6	31 Shop 12-8	

February 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Shop 10-6
2 Faceting 9	3 General Meeting	4 Silver Smithing 5-8	5 Shop 12-9	6 Metalsmithing 3-10	7 Shop 12-8	8 Shop 10-6
9 Faceting 9 Kids Club 3-5	10 Wire Wrapping 5	11 Silver Smithing 5-8	12 Shop 12-9	13 Beading 6-8	14 Shop 12-8	15 Shop 10-6

Do you know what Argentium Sterling Silver is?

By Vicki Hathaway

Traditional sterling silver is 925 parts fine silver and 75 parts copper. Argentium sterling silver is similar, except that some of the copper in the alloy has been replaced with germanium. Germanium prevents oxygen from penetrating the surface of the metal, which allows argentium to resist both tarnish and firescale, making it a joy to work with less firescale means less pickling, less polishing, and less labor.

However, there are a few key differences to remember:

- Argentium sterling silver can be fused with less distortion than fine silver.
- Argentium sterling silver melts around 1410 degrees F (760 degrees C) lower than traditional or fine silver.
- Fine silver doesn't change color when heated and traditional sterling turns dark grey with firescale. Argentium will stay white or get a light grey scale. This can be removed easily with an oxidizing flame, pickling, and/or a light sanding.
- Use separate solder boards, bricks, files, pickle, and polishing tools for Argentium sterling silver. Shared tools can contaminate clean Argentium sterling silver with base metal, which can cause it to tarnish, develop firescale during heating, or not polish as beautifully.

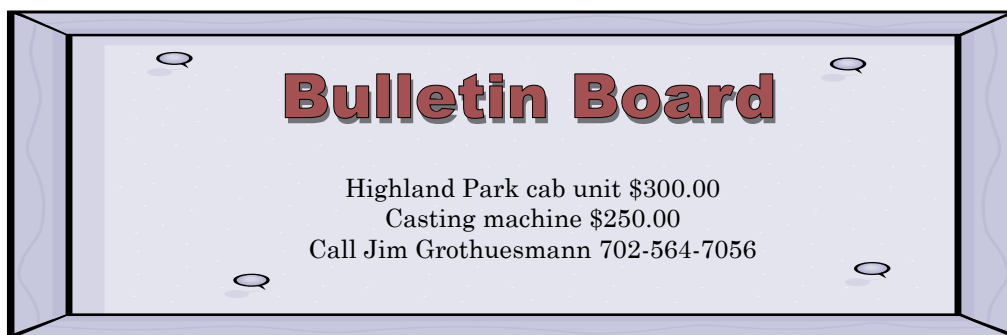
From Alberta Geological Survey Rock Chips 12/13 via The Clackamette Gem, 12/13

Dues To Be Paid Before February 1st

The last date to renew your membership, is January 31st. A renewal after the end of January will result in an interruption in your membership. You must never allow your membership to lapse if you want to maintain continuous (uninterrupted) membership.

Reasons to keep an uninterrupted membership:

- 1 - You must have a minimum of two uninterrupted years of membership in order to run for any elected office.
- 2 - You must have a minimum of one uninterrupted year of membership in order to chair a committee.
- 3 - You must have 10 uninterrupted years of membership to become a life member.
- 4 - If you fail to renew by January 31st, you may renew and be reinstated for an additional \$5.00 fee.



Discounts Available

All the establishments featured in this section 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!

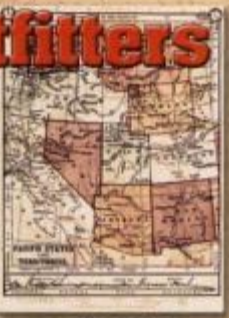


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cactustommy@gmail.com
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fax (702) 875-1913
BLOG: www.cactusjoeslasvegas.com



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David Cray, President
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Sandra Murphy
beads@beadjungle.com
www.beadjungle.com
Open 7 Days 10AM-6PM
Tue/Wed/Thurs 10AM-8PM



SNGMS 2013 Meetings

Jan 02 Board	Jun 02 General
06 General	Jul 03 Board
30 Board	07 General
Feb 03 General	31 Board
27 Board	Aug 04 General
Mar 03 General	Sep 04 Board
Apr 03 Board	08 General
07 General	Oct 02 Board
May 01 Board	06 General
05 General	30 Board
29 Board	Nov 03 General

Board Meetings at Shop, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd. Bldg. E. Suite 125, General Meetings at Moose Lodge, 1600 Gragson

SNGMS General Meeting

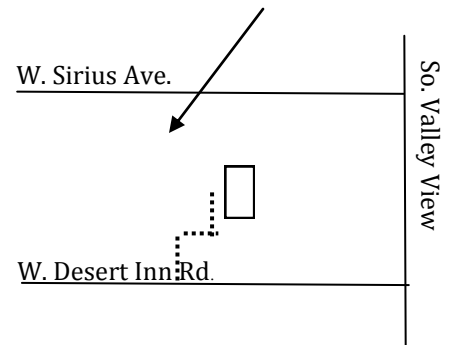
1st Monday of every month
(2nd Monday if holiday falls on the first Monday) No meeting in December.

Non-members welcome!

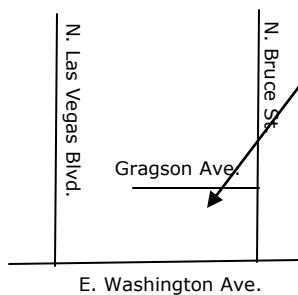
Moose Lodge 1600 Gragson Ave.

Food Available 5 PM (\$5.00)
Show & Sell 5-6 PM
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.

**Finding the General Meeting Location**

Proceeding south on N. Bruce St., take the left onto Gragson Ave. and proceed to the Moose Lodge parking lot on your left at 1600 Gragson Ave.

There is a ramp available for handicapped access to the building. Once you enter the meeting room is to your right.

Shop Contest

Shop Contest for January! Rules are as follows:

Entrant must have at least 1 hour shop usage in January. Verifiable by shop foremen.

Round cabochon (50 cent or dollar size)

Winner is the Cabochon which looks the most like a planet.

Judging will take place at the February meeting as a blind entry. Voting will be by the general membership at the February meeting. Prize to the winner will be a unique rough rock from Quartzsite.

Good Luck Everyone!

Classes, Classes, Classes!

Wire wrapping, led by Sue Moore meets on most Mondays (except for the General Meeting night). Hours for the class are 5 - 8 PM. The wire wrapping classes for January are the 13th and 27th. For more information call Sue Moore at 702-348-9600.



January 13th wire wrapping project

Beading class is 6 - 8 PM on the second Thursday of the month. The February class will be on the 13th and is the Brick Stitched Shamrock Pins. Contact Pat Skeary at 702-235-4991 for more information.

Silver Smithing meets every Tuesday at 5 PM. with Bill Lemmon leading the class. There is a Thursday class in basic metal smithing available as well, led by Mary Brandt meeting 3-10 PM on some Thursdays. Both classes are suitable for beginners, with the Tuesday class also for intermediate to advanced students.

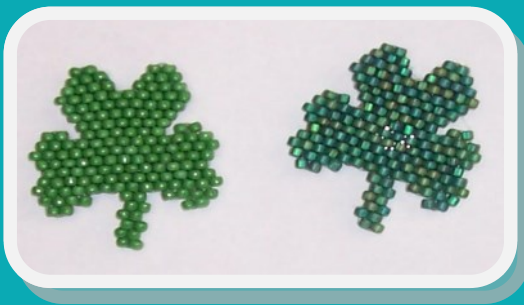
Polymer clay classes are the last Monday of the month at 2 - 5 PM. Come out and join the fun! Contact Lorrilee Stackhouse at 702-631-5291 for more information.

Faceting classes are continuing on Sunday morning and are for current students only at this time.

Wire wrapping, beading, polymer clay, and silver smithing have a very modest donation of \$5.00 per session, that goes to the club. Faceting is \$5.00 an hour, the cost of faceting machine use, or a flat \$5.00 if you use your own machine. 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.



January & February beading projects



Kids Club/Education Activities

The Kids Club will be meeting on the second Sunday of most months at the SNGMS Shop from 3-5. With a regular schedule, we hope you can plan so that your kids (and yourself) can attend each month. As always, for more information or to volunteer to lead an activity contact Mary Beth Paladino at 702-255-1647 or the youth liason, Caity Stackhouse, at 702-239-2581.

In January the Kids Club will be examining micro mounts, small rock specimens. They will also be working on the upcoming Kids Club newsletter.

Shop Report

SNGMS Workshop Schedule

Sunday	Closed
Monday	Closed
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	12 noon - 9 PM
Thursday	Closed
Friday	12 noon - 8 PM
Saturday	10 AM - 6 PM

Supervisors may close the shop if no one comes in after two hours. The next shift supervisor will then re-open the shop.



Photo courtesy of Caitly Stackhouse

Shop Fee Chart

Metered Equipment:

\$0.50 per 1/10 hour actual use.

Non-Metered Equipment:

Turquoise/Opal Saw—\$3.00 for first hour; prorated \$0.75 per additional 1/4 hour increment

Other - \$5.00 for first hour; prorated \$1.25 per additional 1/4 hour increment

Bench Tips

By Brad Smith

One of the things my students often ask to do is drill a hole through a piece of gemstone. The usual thought is to get a diamond drill, but I've found these often break or burn up. The reason I think is that the drill pivots on the piece of diamond on the drill tip. By pivoting the diamond does not cut. When it doesn't cut, you tend to add more force, and the drill is damaged by excess heat.

A much better approach is to use a core drill. This is a small hollow tube with a coating of diamond grit at the business end. The diamonds easily carve out a circular arc without undue pressure or heat buildup. Core drills are readily available from lapidary and jewelry supply companies. They come in sizes as small as 1mm and are reasonable in price, for instance \$6 for 2mm diameter.

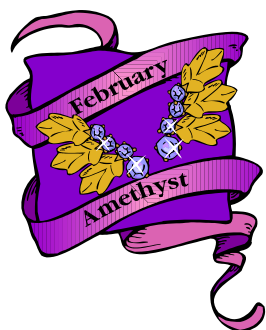
Chuck up the core drill in a drill press or a Foredom and be sure to keep the drilling zone wet to cool the tool and to flush out debris. Also, if you're drilling a through hole, go very easy on the pressure as the drill is about to break through. Otherwise you will usually chip off some of the stone surface around the hole.

More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at:

groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/

or

[facebook.com/BenchTips](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips)



Happy February Birthday!

Naomi Alfonso, Connie Alge, Valaree Anderson, Miranda Brandt, Cheryl Bromley, F.J. Coache, Richard Craven II, Christian Diamandis, Craig Edmonds, Deborah Evans, Bonnie Evelyn, Ti, Hamewka, Shimrit Hanes, Bruce Hays, Cliff Jackson, Kathy Johnson, Richard Johnson, Frank Koot, Kerin Landry, Orion Lawlor, Raul Melendez, Adam Q. Miller, David Parkes, Candise Podry, Richard Rawe, Barbara Sines, Carla Stone, Karen Thomas, Helga Watkins, Ryan Young

Welcome New Members



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

Heather Stuart, Jennifer Lee, Alex Bond, Rich Bond, Mika Goldberg, Kyle Mills, Susan E. Lock, Floyd A. Lock, Bernyce Besso, Kim Corder, Barbara Rudy, Brian Forgione, Mario Alfonso, Naomi Alfonso

Sunshine Report from Dottie Auerswald



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 me—Dottie Auerswald at 648-5886 (recorder on). Cards will be sent to let the member know that we care and wish them well.

Sunshine Chair reports Rita Bergeron was at the meeting and is recovering from a fall. Cathy Carrabis has been in the hospital. Athena Manasses is at home with cracked ribs following a car accident. Tony Duran also had a fall with cracked ribs and broken bones in his hand.

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.

2013 Board of Directors

President.....	Sheri Johnson.....	702-525-0256
	<i>sngms2013@gmail.com</i>	
Vice-President.....	Tony Duran	
	<i>sngms2013@gmail.com</i>	
Secretary.....	Lorrilee Stackhouse.....	702-631-5291
Treasurer.....	Pat Skeary.....	702-235-4991
Parliamentarian.....	Danny Fesler	
Three Year Board.....	John Miller	
Two Year Board.....	Shannon Funk	
One Year Board.....	Sheri Johnson	
	John Stackhouse	

Committee Chairmen

Bulletin.....	Theresa Brooks	
ByLaws.....	Sheri Johnson	
Education.....	Mary Beth Paladino	
Federation.....	Sheri Johnson	
Alt. Federation.....	Mary Beth Paladino	
Field Trip.....	James Sloan	
Financial Manager.....	George Messenger	
Shop Foreman	Chuck Higley & John Miller	
Historian.....	Jack Toogood	
Hospitality.....	Sheri Johnson	
Inventory.....	Frank Timbers	
Librarian.....	Danny Fesler and Kevin Ware	
Membership.....	Lorrilee Stackhouse	
New Member Liason...	Tony Duran	
Program.....	Cindy Allison	
Publicity.....	Scott Edwards	
Raffle.....	Tom Skeary	
50-50 Raffle.....	Mick & JoAnne Sprott	
Refreshments.....	Ann Harris	
Rock Stars.....	Mary Beth Paladino.....	702-255-1647
Rock Hounds		
Show Chairperson.....	Sheri Johnson	
Sunshine.....	Dottie Auerswald.....	702-648-5886
Webmaster.....	Jack Toogood.....	702-642-4788

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

Upcoming Shows

January 1 - February 28, 2014, Quartzsite Show and Swapmeet

Admission: All shows free and open to the public

On Interstate 10: 129 miles (2 hours) west of Phoenix, and 18 miles east of California border

February 1-15 Tuscon, AZ Arizona Mineral and Fossil Show 3 locations: 1333 N. Oracle Rd., Tucson, AZ, 475 N. Granada, Tucson, AZ, 665 N. Freeway, Tucson, AZ

Show Hours: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. (Sat. Feb. 15, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.)

These are only a sampling of shows that are fairly close to the Las Vegas area. 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.



Some links that you may find helpful are: Rocky Mountain Federation

http://www.rmfmts.org/rock_shows_by_date.htm California Federation -

<http://www.cfmsinc.org/shows/cfmsshow.htm> 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



Rocks-R-Us

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.

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 Moose Lodge, 1600 Gragson. 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
	Full Page	\$150	\$275
SNGMS Web Page Ads and Links to your Web Page are available for additional fees. First month is free to club members. Ads must be paid in full prior to publication. Make checks payable to Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society. Mail to : SNGMS/Attn: Editor, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, E-125 Las Vegas, NV 89102			