

# The Polished Slab

VOLUME 66, ISSUE 8 A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUNDS SINCE 1940

AUGUST 2006

## *President's Message*

I apologize that I was unable to attend the August meeting. Sometimes family matters come up that pre-empt our normal routines. I hope that everyone enjoyed the program by Desert Outfitters. I would liked to have been there. Next month we will have another fun program by Doris Currington. Don't forget that the meeting will be on the second Monday (that's the 11th) instead of the first because of the Labor Day holiday on the 4th. I had hoped to put together a field trip to Tonopah for this month, but I just have not been able to find the time. I have been checking regularly on the progress of our workshop. No news at this time but, I did find out that they have submitted the entire project for the property at once; not just our building. The project is called Ceramic Center and includes a jazz recording studio and a pottery and ceramics complex as well as our shop, a repaved parking lot and new outdoor lighting. Check our website for any late breaking news. Stay well and I hope to see everyone at the September 11th meeting. Respectfully, *Jack Toogood*

\* \* \* \* \*

### IT'S JUST A MIRAGE

Aside from the casino on the strip; when we hear the word "mirage" most likely, we think of a shimmering pool of water across the highway or a dry desert lake. On a hot summer day, if your eye is at the right level, you will perceive shimmering "water" overlying a stretch of asphalt or concrete pavement. Bending rays of light, divided by sharply contrasting density and temperature between adjacent layers of air create a mirage. The desert mirage is the result of the formation of a shallow layer of warm rarefied air over ground heated by sunshine. This

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POB 94744 Las Vegas, Nevada 89193

layer acts like a mirror and the apparent water is a actually a reflection of the sky. The effect is even more realistic when trees or other objects are included in the reflection. Very different effects are produced by the formation of a layer of abnormally dense air over a cold surface such as water or ice. In this case, if the observer is within the dense layer, he may see an inverted image in the sky of some distant low-lying object such as a ship. He may see two images, one inverted and the other upright. Taller objects, such as hills and mountains, extending above the dense air will seem to be lifted above their true positions, a phenomenon known as "looming." Another possible combination of warm and cold layers is with a warm vertical layer adjacent to a wall of cliff. This will give a distorted appearance to objects seen through it. If you drive past a dry lake bed on a hot summer day, be sure to look for phantom water and trees. One dry lake bed where mirages are commonly seen is Jean Dry Lake. It is located about 30 miles south of Las Vegas on Interstate 15, just past the town of Jean on the east side of the highway. This lake is known for water, trees and freight train mirages. It's not very far away, so go check it out sometime.

excerpts from..."OUT FROM LAS VEGAS"

### IMPORTANT VOTE COMING UP

Notice is hereby given that Doris Currington has been approved as a candidate for life-time membership. Come out to the September meeting and show your support and appreciation for Doris and all that she has done to promote our club and hobby over the last 40 or so years. Come out and vote!

## August Board Meeting Notes

The August board meeting was called to order at 6:15 PM. Board members present were; Vice President Sharon Rogow, Secretary Clare Breneman, Treasurer Pat Skeary, Frank Auerwald, and Tom Skeary. Absent were President Jack Toogood, Dave Rogers, and Larry Foutz. Workshop status: possibly end of August to first part of September. Sharon presented bio on Doris Currington for nomination for life membership. Motion by Tom seconded by Frank. Motion carried. Sharon suggested Field Trip Chairman not be on the board. Clare stated that appointed positions are not required to attend Board Meetings, only the elected officers. Sharon suggested these points be clarified. Subject of by-laws brought up and Sharon said we should all have a copy and should review them to see if they need revision. She also said we should have a packet for new members and include by-laws, plus information on what to bring on field trips. Since the first Monday in September is Labor Day, board agreed to have the meeting on Monday, Sept 11. Meeting adjourned 6:48 PM

### PERIDOT AUGUST BIRTHSTONE

If fire appears to leap from the vibrant green surface of the Peridot, this may be because this gem is formed as a result of volcanic activity. Many years ago, natives discovered Peridot crystals in the black sands of Hawaii, explaining their presence as tears shed by Pele, the volcano goddess.

Throughout history, August's birthstone has been used as a means to connect with nature. Early Egyptian priests drank a stimulating beverage called Soma from cups made of Peridot, believing this practice to draw them closer to Isis, the goddess of nature.

The name Peridot comes from the Arabic word "faridat" meaning gem. Ancient Egyptians called them "gem of the sun" because of their dazzling brilliance when seen in the desert sun. It was believed that the Peridot glowed with light even as darkness fell, which is why miners were said to have scouted for these gems

during the night, marking their location and returning in the light of day to retrieve them.

Peridot is a mineral named Olivine which is found in a variety of greens, ranging from light yellowish green to a dark olive. Early mining for this gem was done on St John's Island near Egypt around 1500 BC. The green crystal was considered protective against evil and when set in gold, especially helpful against night terrors. It was ground to powder and was used as a remedy for asthma and as a cure for thirst brought on by fever. Today, Peridot is mined in Burma, Norway, Brazil, Australia, Hawaii, the Congo, and in Arizona.

The force of nature is alive within a Peridot, making a gift of this gemstone symbolic of vitality. It signifies strength, both individual and within a relationship, as well as the promise of new growth in years ahead.

....from ABOUT BIRTHSTONES

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## What's Happening ?

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Aug 18-20 Sacramento, CA Gem Faire  
Scottish Rite Center, 6151 H Street

OTHER SHOWS MAY BE FOUND ON THE  
ROCK & GEM WEBSITE

### UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

August - Cancelled - SNGMS Tonopah NV  
August 21,22 - Co-op field trip - Virgin Valley for Opals  
sponsored by Stockton Lapidary Club  
Jim Dunlap 209-478-0747 for details  
September TBA - Kokoweef

### KIDS CLUB - Pebble Pups

September. Kids meeting will be at my home at  
3740 Moss Ridge Court. Call for directions.  
702-255-1647 ..... Mary Beth Paladino

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**Our next meeting is Monday, September 11th. If your birthday falls in September, please don't forget to bring some goodies for the refreshment table.**

## SOME AREA HISTORY

*Eldorado , Nelson & Searchlight*

In the late 1800's Eldorado was Nevada's largest port on the Colorado river, with an estimated population of 1500. Wood burning steamers performed miracles on the shallow, muddied upriver trip from Arizona. Sometimes they had to resort to backing up over the sand bars, letting the powerful blades of the ferryboats churn a passage, then turn and steam through. Mining was at its peak in 1863, and a ten-stamp mill was built to process ore from the vast Techatticup Mine, the Gettysburg Mine, and the Savage Mine. At the turn of the century, the town of Searchlight boomed and Nelson was built at the head of Eldorado Canyon. The history of this area would not be complete without mentioning the Paiute Indian renegade, Queho. After murdering two men in the Eldorado District in December 1910, he fled on foot, but because he had one leg shorter than the other, his footprints were distinctive. The posse tracked him to the Arizona side of

.....continued on Page 4



## SUNSHINE REPORT

*by Priscilla Messenger*

I am happy to tell you that Clare's husband, **Mark Breneman** has made quite a bit of progress in recovery at the Veteran's Hospital.

Our warmest sympathy goes out to **Sue Husch** in the sudden death of her daughter in Illinois. Sue was able to go there to be with the rest of the family for a few days.

It was with regret that we were notified that **Bill Lemmon** had lost his brother recently.

Congratulations to **Tom** and **Pat Skeary** who will celebrate their 50th Anniversary this month. Their son is throwing a party for them with many friends and relatives.

Call me if anyone needs an address or phone number to send greetings to anyone. 733-6578 *Priscilla*

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The **August 7th** meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by President Pro Tem Sharon Rogow.

Clare Breneman read the minutes of the July meeting. Pat Skeary gave the Treasurer's report. Priscilla Messenger gave the Sunshine report: Mark Breneman is doing a lot better; Sue Husch lost her daughter.

Awards Banquet report - Tickets will be available in October. Pat Skeary accepting reservations; cost is \$10 per person. We still need donations for door prizes, and Chinese Auction. Cut-off date to be announced.

Mary Beth - Kids club meeting Aug 11th at her home. Old business: Workshop expected move in late Aug or early Sept. December Intergem Show - club participation will depend on having enough volunteers. There will be no silversmithing class in August.

New business: Motion by Frank Auerswald to nominate Doris Currinton as candidate for life membership. Seconded by Luigi Lopresto. Motion carried.

Break at 7:35 PM for refreshments. Cake from Pat & Tom Skeary in honor of their 50th anniversary.

Program - Presentation by Desert Outfitters, member Rick Kasky on things to have on a field trip. Mary Beth narrated. Catalogs given out. Announcements. Questions about an August field trip. No details given. Again, membership asked to keep addresses and phone numbers current. Name badges available. Mexican cruise will include classes - no rockhounding.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM

Submitted by .....*Clare Breneman* , Secretary



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**WE'VE MOVED: TO 1616 LAS VEGAS BLVD**

...continued from page 3.....

the river where a third victim was found. There was no trace of Queho. In January of 1919, the sheriff's office in Las Vegas was notified of two more murders and a set of limping footprints at the scene. Later that month, a Nelson resident was shot and killed and the well-known tracks were again evident. Queho was never located until 1940 when his mummified body was found in a high cave on the side of Black Canyon. The discovery of Queho was the biggest media event in the area since the building of Hoover Dam. Photographers came from as far away as New York. The glory days of mining in Eldorado and Nelson faded long ago. Today, Nelson is visited mostly by fisherman on the Colorado. Some visit just to see Nelson and occasionally a few prospectors comb the hills for treasure. At the junction of US 95 and state highway 164 is the town of Searchlight. The first mining claim was located there in 1895 by G.F. Colton. Legend says his partner told him if he wanted to find gold there, that he would need a searchlight. Colton had the last laugh, as his mine produced over \$ 6,000,000 worth of ore. The more famous mines in the Searchlight area were the Duplex, Pompeii, Blossom, Cyrus Noble, Quartette and Good Hope. Many had their own mills. In 1907 the Santa Fe Railroad built a spur connecting Searchlight to the railroad's main line. After diminishing profits and the coming popularity of the automobile, the railroad ceased operation and was dismantled in 1929. Searchlight hasn't changed much from the early years. Mine structures are still evident and many of the old houses are still standing. Residents are friendly and like to talk about the "old days." This is a colorful region of Nevada's past.

...excerpts from "OUT FROM LAS VEGAS"

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DENNIS WALKER

VISIT THE CLUB WEBSITE  
[www.sngms.com](http://www.sngms.com)

**WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR A FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN. CONTACT ANY BOARD MEMBER**

### RIDESHARING PROGRAM

Anyone who would like 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.

### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Barbara Heim	Ruth Holstrom
Fred Huelsmann	Virginia Johnson
Sue Lofaro	Bill Robinson
Karina Luera	Diane Rogers
Billye Singer	Donna Swartz
Michael Burch	Howard Hahn
Frank Rowley	Josette Delaittre

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### INTERGEM SHOW DEC 1, 2, 3

Club Fund Raising Opportunity

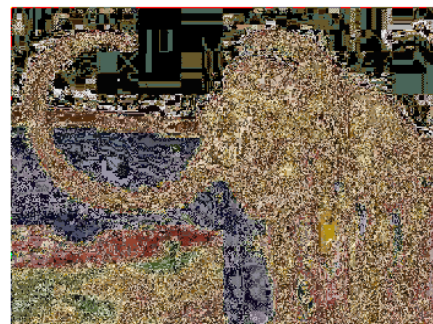
Volunteers needed to sign up now if we are going to do this show this year. If we don't get enough volunteers we will not be doing this show. Call Show Chairman Sharon Rogow if you can support our club for this event. It's at Cashman Field this year so parking is easier. Now is your chance to support our club. Don't just sit back and watch. Participate.

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Here's wishing a very happy 50th wedding anniversary to Pat and Tom Skeary. Congratulations on reaching this milestone from all of us. Tom had better get out and find a really nice rock for Pat for this one!

*JT*

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**SECOND TIME AROUND, OUR PAST** from Sept. 1974 LAS VEGAS GEM CLUB - GEM TIME  
 Courtesy of Bruno & Phyllis Syzdek ; Our Club Historians

# GEM TIME

*****	
*PRESIDENT	* Don McGuire.....648-1462
*VICE PRESIDENT	* Princess McCreless...452-8066
*SECRETARY	* Anita Zell.....876-1189
*TREASURER	* Dona Hoesly.....457-7700
*FIELD TRIP	* Ted Kennedy.....643-3506
	* Ron Holmes.....451-1608
*****	
*****BOARD	
*Betty McCreless, Editor.....452-3066	* Gordon Stewart
*P.O. Box 3158	* Virginia Wickham.....642-0311
*N. Las Vegas, Nevada 89030	* Ray Simpson.....452-7473
*****	

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well here we are over half way through the year. This is our first full GEM TIME bulletin again. Most all of us are back from vacations and a busy summer schedule. Now we can settle down to some good field trips, meetings, programs and club projects. By the way, our Field Trip Chairman has an assistant now, so our field trips should be twice as good. His name is Ron Holmes.



I want to take this opportunity to thank all the members for their assistance in our club projects...everyone that has worked putting everything together for our show at the Jaycee's State Fair. It takes all of us working together to make our club a success. We have a wonderful group. The show plans look very good.

Don't forget next regular meeting will be at the REED WHIPPLE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER, 321 Las Vegas Blvd North,

Don...

## AUGUST 12, 1974 MINUTES

Meeting was called to order at 7:45 By President Don McGuire, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

The minutes of the previous general meeting were read. There had been no board meeting as quorum was not present.

Dona Hoesly reported on the general & show fund. Certificates remain the same. Some money will have to be taken from other funds for show expenses. Our income tax was filed June 25, 1974. Our books were audited and passed upon.

Guests and new members were introduced.

Betty McCreless reported the seminar was a real success and the profit on the dinner would amount to around \$50. when all bills were paid. The Mt. Charleston party went well with about 50 people attending.

The next meeting will be held at the Reed Whipple Cultural Arts Center.

Ron Fink reported CFMS will have a "Clean up & Rock Hunt" over the Labor Day weekend at Modoc. CFMS has grown to 17,000 members. Ron showed the completed table from last months program. Beautiful!

Ray Simpson showed slides of the Double up Mine and some of cases in National shows. Good and bad points of displaying were discussed.

Field trip will be Aug. 17-18 to Cima for opalized agate.

Meeting adjourned informally at 9:45

Respectfully submitted  
 Anita J. Zell, Secretary

(1)

**SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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**BIRTHDAYS** \_\_\_\_\_ (**MONTH & DAY**)

**INTERESTS** [ ] Mineralogy [ ] Lapidary [ ] Field Trips [ ] Geology [ ] Beads [ ] Silversmithing

**NEW MEMBER** \_\_\_\_\_ **RENEWAL** \_\_\_\_\_ **COMMENTS** \_\_\_\_\_

**ANNUAL DUES ARE:    ADULTS \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ FAMILY \$30 \_\_\_\_\_**

MAIL IN OR TURN IN AT THE MEETING

**2006 Officers - Board of Directors - Committee Chairpersons**

Elected Officer	Name	Phone
<b>President</b>	Jack Toogood	222-1946
<b>Vice president</b>	Sharon Rogow	656-1144
<b>Secretary</b>	Clare Breneman	452-0175
<b>Treasurer</b>	Pat Skeary	459-2649
<b>One Year Board</b>	Frank Auerswald	365-8306
<b>Volunteer Chairpersons</b>		
<b>Parliamentarian /Sgt at Arms</b>	Craig Edmonds	838-0012
<b>Editor</b>	Jack Toogood	222-1946
<b>Webmaster</b>	Theresa Bower	837-0522
<b>Website Liason</b>	Carolyn Edmonds	838-0012
<b>Federation Director</b>	Carolyn Chervenak	274-2867
<b>Show Chairman</b>	Sharon Rogow	656-1144
<b>Hospitality</b>	Carolyn Chervenak	274-2867
<b>Historian</b>	Bruno & Phylis Syzdek	876-3861
<b>Financial Planner</b>	George Messenger	733-6578
<b>Awards Banquet</b>	Nancy Tatom	

Elected Officer	Name	Phone
<b>One Year Board</b>	David Rogers	260-6344
<b>Two Year Board</b>	Tom Skeary	459-2649
<b>Three Year Board</b>	Larry Foutz	896-7757
<b>Field Trip Chair</b>	OPEN	
<b>Volunteer Chairpersons</b>		
<b>Refreshments</b>		
<b>Door Prizes</b>	Mary Beth Paladino	255-1647
<b>Inventory</b>		
<b>Sunshine</b>	Priscilla Messenger	733-6578
<b>Publicity</b>	Erica Hamilton	364-1400
<b>Program Director</b>	Mary Beth Paladino	255-1647
<b>Class Coordinator</b>	Frank Auerswald	365-8306
<b>General Foreman</b>	Wes Bryant	
<b>Shop Foreman</b>	Carl Fields	
<b>Shop Foreman</b>		

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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;  
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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  
Visitors are always welcome - Bring a friend or two.

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