



# The Polished Slab

Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society



December 2011

**A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUNDS SINCE 1940**

Volume 71 Issue 12

## **Upcoming Events**

- Jan 5 - Board Meeting
- Jan 9 - General Meeting
- Jan 28 - Show & Sell at Shop
- Wire Wrapping - each Monday except General Meeting night, 3 & 6 PM at the Shop
- Silversmithing - each Tuesday, 5 PM at the Shop
- Beading - Every other Thursday, 6 PM at the Shop.
- See page 8 for more class information

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## **President's Message**

*from Sheri Johnson*

Hello Fellow Rockhounds,

As I write this first message, I find myself at a loss for words. It's surprising, I know. So here are just a few random thoughts.

Many thanks to Mary Beth Paladino and her team, on the Awards Banquet. The food was delicious and the entertainment was wonderful. But most of all, I was in the company of a great group of people and we had a few laughs, too.

To the Board of Directors, thank you. It was with your guidance and wisdom that the club was able to accomplish so much. I look forward to working with many of you again.

Peggy Sue – you will be a hard act to follow but I will continue your legacy of staying for the entire year. I want to thank you for all of your hard work and dedication. You did an amazing job.

Several months ago on a field trip, someone asked Doris Currington how many times she had been president of the rock club. Her answer – I ain't that stupid! Well here's to stupid. I may make a few mistakes in the coming year, but with the help of all of the membership, it will be a great year. I am honored to be a part of it.

I wish you all of the joy and happiness for this Holiday Season and we will see you next year!

## **Board Meeting Summary - December 1, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. and the pledge of allegiance was made.

The minutes of the board meeting held 3 Nov. 2011 were read and approved with one correction. The name for Frank Aureswald was corrected from John to Frank in the section on life time members.

The treasurer's report was given by Pat Skeary indicating a profit for the month of November. Bills were approved for Printing and the final bill for the silver crucibles.

One of the check signing positions was lost with the passing of Clare Breneman who was serving the two year board. The board nominated Ernie Parrish to replace the board position. The following persons were approved to sign checks

## Board Meeting Summary - con't.

for the club. These members will meet in the Nevada State Bank at Stewart and Nellis on Monday 5 Dec 2011.

Peggy Sue Moore, President  
John Stackhouse, Director.  
Tony Fetcho, Secretary elect for 2012  
Pat Skeary. Treasurer

Old business: The business license is still pending from the state. Peggy Sue Moore will continue to follow this item.

Field trip: William and Peggy Sue Moore will be traveling to Newberry Springs on 4 December 2011 meeting at 8:00 A.M. at the Jean gas station.

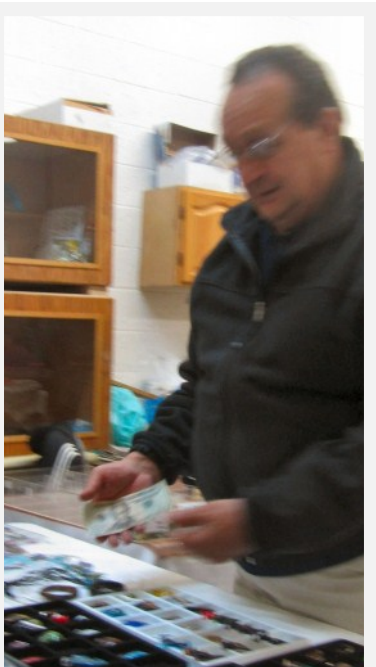
Faceting classes will be available on Wednesdays during December. The MDR faceting machines were evaluated and all found to be repairable. Repairs will be discussed next year.

There will be a show and sell at the club Sat. 3 Dec. 2011.

Contact Mary Beth Paladino for tickets and donations to the awards banquet. The last donation can be processed on 7 Dec. 2011. Do not miss this dinner, there are no refunds. You will be able to renew your membership at the door.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00.

## Show and Sell at the Shop



The last Show and Sell event in December was Saturday, Dec 17th, from 10 AM - 3 PM. Overseen by Sandy Cunningham, these have been fun events with a variety of items including beaded and wire wrapped jewelry, rock specimens, slabs, and cabs, and rhinestone embellished wearables. The tables are free, and many members have dropped by to shop and visit. These Show & Sell events will be continuing monthly in 2012, on the last Saturday of the month from 11 - 3, and are held in the SNGMS Shop. The next Show and Sell will be Saturday, Jan 28th. See you there!

Contact Sandy Cunningham at 655-3514 for more information or to reserve a table.



The Awards Banquet theme was Roadrunners and the table centerpieces were constructed under Doris Currington's direction, cut out by Sue Dobson and completed by Doris and the committee. Jaen and Ed Rupprecht contributed 'baby' roadrunners constructed from Mesquite thorn, Devil's Claw plant seed pod, and a pine cone petal.



Award Banquet Photos  
courtesy of Caitly  
Stackhouse and Jack  
Toogood



**2011 Awards Banquet**

**Good food, great fellowship**



# 2011 Awards Banquet

Award Banquet Photos courtesy of Cathy Stackhouse and Jack Toogood



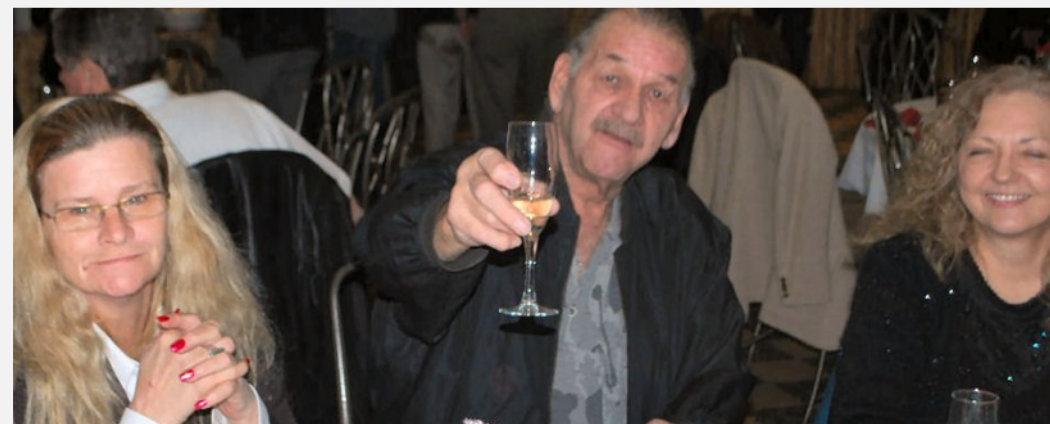
**Tom Skeary selling tickets for the Chinese Auction**



**Mary Beth Paladino Chariman**



**The Steve & Delly Fortgang's Future Stars choral group provided enjoyable entertainment before the banquet.**



**Cheers to Mary Beth and her committee for arranging another great Awards Banquet and to a great year for SNGMS!**



Photos courtesy of Caitly Stackhouse

Above: 2011 Board, left to right: Sheri Johnson (One Year Board), Pat Skeary (Treasurer), Glenn Beye (Secretary), Jack Toogood (Vice President), Frank Auerswald (Parliamentarian), Bill Moore (One Year Board), and Tom Skeary (Three Year Board) as they receive awards from President Peggy Sue Moore



Congratulations to the 2012 Board, here being sworn in by Wes Bryant. Left to right: Sheri Johnson (President), Tony Fetcho (Secretary), Pat Skeary (Treasurer), Jack Toogood (Vice President), Frank Auerswald (Parliamentarian), Peggy Sue Moore (One Year Board), Tom Skeary (Two Year Board), and John Stackhouse (Three Year Board.)

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Las Vegas, NV 89193



# Quartzsite

## Pow Wow Field Trips sponsored by the Quartzsite Roadrunner Gem & Mineral Club

- Jan 18** - Brown Banded Rhyolite, Departure East, 38 Miles; Red Jasper Hematite, Departure North, 41 Miles  
**Jan 19** - Wiley's Well Geodes, Departure East, 125 Miles; Green Banded Rhyolite, Departure North, 26 Miles  
**Jan 20** - Pastilite, Departure East, 100 Miles; Bacon Rock, Departure North, 24 Miles  
**Jan 21** - Yellow/Red Jasper, Departure North, 42 Miles; Birds Eye Rhyolite, Departure South, 57 Miles  
**Jan 22** - Desert Roses, Departure East, 62 Miles, Earp Purple Jasper Agate, Departure North, 96 Miles  
 See SNGMS.com or <http://qrgmc.org/> for more information.

### Discounts Available

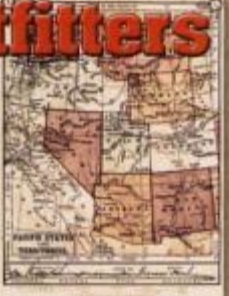
All the establishments featured in this section offer discounts to SNGMS members. Be sure to show your membership card when making a

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**SNGMS 2012 Meetings**

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| Jan 05 Board   | Jun 04 General |
| 09 General     | 28 Board       |
| Feb 02 Board   | Jul 02 General |
| 06 General     | Aug 02 Board   |
| Mar 01 Board   | 06 General     |
| 05 General     | Sep 06 Board   |
| 29 Board       | 10 General     |
| Apr 02 General | 27 Board       |
| May 03 Board   | Oct 01 General |
| 07 General     | Nov 01 Board   |
| 31 Board       | 05 General     |

All Meetings at 3111 S. Valley View Blvd. Bldg. E. Board Meetings at Shop, Suite 125, General Meetings at Suite 122.

**SNGMS General Meeting**

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

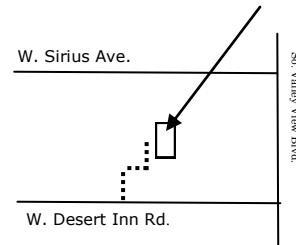
***Non-members welcome!***

3111 S. Valley View Blvd, E-122  
Las Vegas, NV

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

**3111 So. Valley View Blvd, Building E**

**Meeting Location  
Suite 122  
Shop Suite 125**



**Finding the Shop and General Meeting 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.

*In Loving Memory of*



*Clare M Breneman*

SNGMS Lifetime member, Clare M. Breneman, passed away at her home in the early morning hours of Nov. 13, 2011. She was 83.

Clare was born near Easttown Township, Chester County, Pa., on January 2, 1928. She is survived by her sister, Edith Kirkner; her stepson, Dr. Curt M. Breneman and his son, Sean M. Breneman; as well as many nieces and nephews.

Clare worked as a secretary in the aerospace industry, as well as at the Pentagon as part of Project Bluebook. While working at Hughes Aircraft Company, she met and married H. Mark Breneman in 1966. In 1978, they moved to Las Vegas to enjoy their retirement together.

Clare was an active member and treasurer of the Sunrise Hospital Ladies Auxiliary. During their early years in Las Vegas, Clare and Mark enjoyed being camp hosts at Red Rock Canyon and both remained members of the RRC National Conservation Area until their deaths. Clare was a devout member of the St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church.

We SNGMS members remember Clare's hard work and dedication to our club. She and her husband first joined the Las Vegas Gem Club in 1992, and from the start she was an active member and supporter. She gave generously of her time, talent, and treasure to help the club from that time until the present.

A lot of her efforts were behind the scenes as she assisted with arranging for, contributing to, folding, collating, stapling, picking up and mailing the newsletter, going after mail and badges, donating prizes to shows and the raffle table, helping to glue, sort, and organize rocks for shows and schools, spent hours and days at shows, arranged for club storage, purchased and delivered cards and flowers to members who were sick or families of those who passed away, worked on countless club committees, including awards banquet, refreshments, kid's club, nominating, show, sunshine, telephone, and others.

Clare was elected Secretary for two terms and SNGMS Board Member several times. She continued her service as a 2011 board member working tirelessly for SNGMS. She was the 2010 Awards Banquet Chairman and the By Law Committee Chairman overseeing the major revision of SNGMS By Laws in 2010, as well as the minor revision this year.

Clare gave so much effort and direction to SNGMS. Her guidance and friendship will be missed.

# Classes, Classes, Classes!

Wire wrapping, led by Sue Moore and Sheila Tremmel, meets on Mondays (except for the General Meeting night) at 3 PM and again at 6 PM. December classes included the basket weave cabochon wrap shown in the photo. The next wire wrapping classes will be the last two Mondays in January. Sign up with Sue Moore at 702-434-6072, or email her, to get on the email list to receive wire wrapping class information.

The beading classes in December focused on completing unfinished projects from previous classes. The project for January will be a free-form peyote stitch bracelet. Class starts at 6 PM. Contact Pat Skeary at 702-459-2649 to sign up for beading or for more information.

Silversmithing meets every Tuesday at 5 PM. Bill Lemmon is leading the class. He is doing some project classes, or will help you, as needed, as you complete your own individual projects. No experience or equipment is required to come to the class. Come in and Bill will help you get started.



Faceting classes are now decreased in cost to only \$5.00 an hour. Contact Peggy Sue Moore 434-6072, Frank Auerswald 365-8306, or John Stackhouse 631-5291 to arrange a time when one of them can help you with faceting.

Tom Skeary taught a clock making class in November. Contact him to arrange to take his next class.

Chuck Huebler is offering a drop-in shop maintenance class on Saturday mornings. Come in at 10 AM and he will teach you about maintaining your lapidary equipment.

A wax carving and lost wax casting class is being formed. Get on the sign up sheet if you are interested.

Examples of the wire wrapping and beading projects are displayed in the SNGMS Shop, so come down and take a look. Wire wrapping, beading, and silversmithing classes have a very modest donation of \$5.00 per session, that goes to the club. Other class donations may vary, depending on what is included in the class.



Photo courtesy of Cathy Stackhouse

**Tony Duran was one of the big winners at the Chinese Auction, scoring both of Tom Skeary's clocks, and other goodies.**

**Congratulations to the winners, and thanks to all the generous folks who contributed the wonderful selection of items for the Chinese Auction and the door prizes.**

**THANK YOU**

Thanks to our member, Wayne Muth, at the Hilton for his help coordinating the Awards Banquet, and to Mary Beth Paladino who chaired the Awards Banquet Committee.

Thanks to the hard work of Mary Beth and her helpers we were able to enjoy a wonderful afternoon. Committee members included: Sandy Cunningham (Tickets and Door Prizes), Tom Skeary (Chinese Auction Ticket Sales), John & Lorrilee Stackhouse (Programs), Doris Currington, Sue Dobson, Cliff Jackson, Mike Kisner, Frank Auerswald, Dottie Fusch, John & Lorrilee Stackhouse (Centerpieces), Peggy Sue Moore (Master of Ceremonies), Pat Skeary, Lucinda Wilson, Corinne Silvia (Check-In), Frank Timbers (Entertainment), Cheryl Milne, Cliff Jackson, Elana Paladino, Amber Penick, Michael Paladino (Chinese Auction), Wes Bryant (Swearing In), and Reverend Kathy Haslett Duran (Blessing).

Thanks to the Las Vegas Hilton for table favors, and to Eagle Promotions for Thank You Awards.

# Shop Report

Photo courtesy of Caitly Stackhouse



## SNMGMS Workshop Schedule

|           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| Sunday    | Closed       |
| Monday    |              |
| Tuesday   |              |
| Wednesday | 12 noon-9 PM |
| Thursday* | 12 noon-9 PM |
| Friday    | 12 noon-9 PM |
| Saturday  | 10 AM -9 PM  |

\*Closed after 6 PM on the Thursday of the Board Meeting.

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

### Fees

Trim Saw \$3.00 per hour, all other equipment is \$5.00 per hour, after the first hour charges are pro-rated in 15 minute increments.

## Shop Talk

*from Chuck Huebler and Tom Skeary*

Supervisors will be glad to help anyone who is unfamiliar with the equipment to learn, and to get certified.

They also need to wear eye protection and a mask and/or hearing protection, depending on their activity. Goggles, hearing protection, and masks are available at the shop. Wearing old clothes is recommended

Be mindful of what you are doing in the shop, as equipment (and You) can be damaged. If you don't know, or aren't sure of the equipment operation, ask for assistance. The supervisors are there to help you.

If none of the listed times are convenient for you, contact Tom at 702-630-6796 or Chuck at 702-686-4186 and they will try to accommodate your schedule if possible.

Come In & Have Some Fun!

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.



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Birthstone: Garnet

Flower -  
Carnation

# Happy January Birthday!

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

Samantha Altergott, Don Andretti, Suzanne Barnes, Rita Bergeron, Nicholas Brooks, Simy Bryant, Diane Burgess, Joan Burns, June Cravenn, Thomas Cullum, Sandra Cunningham, Doris Currington, Kevin Donovan, Jan Fitzgerald, Hilary Grillett, Patricia Grillett, Larry Haugen, Kim Hoffman, Leo Karnes, Bob Lofaro, Martin McClellan, Jeff Meckley, Roy L. Mobley, William (Bill) Moore, Katherine Namchek, Keira Namchek, Sarah Neale, Ronald Nelder, Katie Neumann, Conner Nicholson, Jaun Resendiz, Renate Robertson, Gary Shaw, Heather Shourds, Pat Skeary, Rick Swift, Vincente Thompson, Taciana (Endi) Timbers, Jack Toogood, Sierra Whitehead, Lucinda Wilson

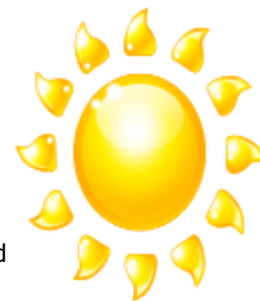
## Welcome New Members



***A hearty welcome to members who joined or rejoined SNGMS during late November and December. We look forward to getting to know you better!***

Suzanne Barnes, Mr. Pat Dingle, Mrs. Pat Dingle, Joel Gregson, Paul Hamby, Clara Hatz, William Kogan, Terry McLain, William McLain, Nicol McNee, Mike Miller, Pat Miller, Sarah Neale

## Sunshine Report *from Dottie Fusch*



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

Bill Kogan had surgery, but was able to attend the Awards Banquet thanks to Peggy Sue and Bill Moore.

Mike Coache's wife Adele passed away and a memorial service was held on Dec. 17th.

Mary McKinstry fell and broke her hip. She is recuperating at home. We missed her and Deana at the Awards Banquet.

Jack Toogood's wife had a trip to the emergency room, but is back to work.

Former SNGMS Member Wayne Barger passed away and a memorial service was held on Dec. 3rd.

## 2011 Board of Directors

President.....Peggy Sue Moore.....702-434-6072  
*backyardgems@yahoo.com*

Vice-President.....Jack Toogood.....702-642-4788  
*sngms@yahoo.com*

Secretary.....Glenn Beya *sngms\_sec@yahoo.com*

Treasurer.....Pat Skeary.....702-459-2649  
*sngms\_treasurer@yahoo.com*

Parliamentarian.....Frank Auerswald

Three Year Board...Tom Skeary

Two Year Board.....vacant

One Year Board.....Sheri Johnson  
 Bill Moore

## Committee Chairmen

Bulletin.....Lorrilee Stackhouse.....702-631-5291  
*sngms\_editor@yahoo.com*

Education.....Mary Beth Paladino

Federation.....Jason Fabbi  
 Alt. Federation.....Sheri Johnson  
*sngms\_federation@yahoo.com*

Field Trip.....Board of Directors  
*sngms\_fieldtrip@yahoo.com*

Financial Manager..George Messenger

General Shop .....Chuck Huebler.....702-686-4186  
 Foremen Tom Skeary.....702-630-6796

Historian.....Terry Beck

Hospitality.....Bob and Sue Lofaro

Inventory.....Ronald Fetcho

Librarian.....Kevin Ware

Membership.....John Stackhouse & Mary Brandt  
*sngmsmembership@yahoo.com*

Program.....Board of Directors

Raffle.....Tom Skeary

50-50 Raffle.....Craig Tremmel

Refreshments.....Sue Dobson

Rock Stars.....Mary Beth Paladino.....702-255-1647  
 Rock Hounds *sngms\_rockstars@yahoo.com*

Sargeant at Arms...Craig Tremmel

Show Chairperson...Board of Directors to manage shows;

## Committee Chairmen continued

Sandy Cunningham is show information compiler

Sunshine.....Dottie Fusch.....702-648-5886

Webmaster.....Jack Toogood.....702-642-4788  
*sngms\_webmaster@yahoo.com*

Open Committee Chair Positions: Publicity

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

## Upcoming Shows

**Jan 6 - 8 - Mesa, AZ**, 40th annual show, Flagg Mineral Foundation, Mesa Community College, US 60 at Dobson, southwest parking lot, Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5

**Jan 6-8 - Del Mar, CA**, Annual show, Gem Faire Inc., Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd., Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5

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:  
 California Federation - <http://www.cfmsinc.org/>,  
 Rocky Mountain Federation -  
[http://www.rmfm.org/rock\\_shows\\_by\\_date.htm](http://www.rmfm.org/rock_shows_by_date.htm),  
 and the Rock & Gem website -  
<http://rockngem.com/showdates/>

**Dues are due by  
 January 31st**



## Vendor Opportunities

**Mar 16 -18 - Henderson, NV**, St. Patrick's Day Festival. Spaces are available in the Henderson Convention Center and the Henderson Events Plaza. See <http://snsoe.com/index.html> for more information.

**Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society**

**3111 S. Valley View Blvd, E-125**

**Las Vegas, NV 89102**

**Return Service Requested**



**Rocks-R-Us**

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**Don't forget to pay your  
2012 Dues!**

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.

| <b>Club Mascot:</b> Rock Wren<br><b>Club Gemstone:</b> Turquoise<br><b>Club Logo:</b> Rocks-R-Us<br><b>Membership</b> is open to anyone with an interest in: Rocks, Gems, Geology, Fossils, Lapidary Arts or Silversmithing<br><b>Annual Dues:</b> Individual - \$20; Family - \$30<br><b>Meetings</b> are held the first Monday of the month at 3111 So. Valley View Blvd, E-122. No meeting is held in December. Instead we have our annual awards dinner.<br><b>Visitors</b> are always welcome and bring a friend or two. | <b>Polished Slab Advertising Rates</b> |            |        |
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| Full Page   | \$150                                  | \$275      |        |
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