

SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM and MINERAL SOCIETY

Las Vegas, Nevada



The Polished Slab

Volume 63, Issue 8

August 2003

Message From The President *Craig A. Edmonds*

Dear Members and Friends,

I realized it was time to compose a president's message again. It is amazing how fast the time is going by. We still have a lot of things were planning for this year. The Heritage Show is in October along with our fall picnic at the Ore Car Claim. We are in the process of putting together an election committee for our fall elections. We have the awards/holiday party to plan for in December along with the show at Cashman Field. That doesn't even include all the field trips that Bruce is planning for us.

I received a new membership list from Larry recently. When I totaled up all of our members it came out to unofficially 338 members. Isn't that amazing!!! We have new members joining every week. With all of these members it should be no problem to find volunteers to help with everything we have planned this fall. Let us know what your talents are and we will put them to good use.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on August Fourth.

DON'T LET THE CUPBOARDS GO BARE!

Susan Davlin, Food Basket Donations Chair

Have you ever been hungry? No, I don't mean just having a growling stomach that leads you to the nearest buffet, I mean starving—really empty, and being in a position where you can't do anything about it because the cupboards are bare.

Even in this day and age where, here in Las Vegas, you can literally win thousands with your last two quarters, there are many people who, for whatever their circumstances, do face empty shelves and refrigerators. And even more surprising, recent reports have shown that on an average over 50% of those that need assistance with food supplies are senior citizens.

Over the winter holiday season last year, the society was able to donate many food baskets to the Las Vegas Senior Center, where we are now holding our monthly meetings. These baskets were given to seniors who had little else for the holidays, and for whom getting a special basket might have been the only gift they received.

We would like to continue that tradition again this year, with collection of nonperishable food items being donated starting at the August

(Continued on page7)

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Director's Meeting Notes for July 2003

Priscilla Messenger, Secretary

Our meeting was called to order on July 14, 2003 at 7 PM by President Craig Edmonds. Frank Auerswald made a motion that the Minutes of the last Board meeting be approved and George Messenger seconded the motion.

Volunteers will be encouraged to help with the Ore Car Mine Potluck Social on October 25th. A few men need to check the access road and fill in any areas washed out by wind or water. Tables and perhaps canopies will need to be set up that day. Tom Skeary will be contacted to see if he can bring out the BBQ to the site. The annual fee on the Ore Car mine is due before September 1. Craig, Frank and David Finch will work with the BLM and the Clark County Recorder this month to see that all papers are in order.

Priscilla Messenger moved that the Treasurer's Report by David Finch be approved as read and Art Lory seconded the motion. The income of the club is keeping up with expenditures except for the major workshop purchases which can be spread over several years.

The Board discussed adding to the job description of Club Treasurer a requirement that this officer have a computer and working knowledge of its operation. This change needs to be done before the next election of officers.

Patrick and Tammy Leary gave a report on their installation of new belts on the shop saws. George Messenger made a motion that funds for a new 1 1/2 horsepower motor that meets the specifications for the 24" saw be approved. Bruce Wingate seconded the motion and board members passed the motion. Patrick will check with Jet Erikson about a new oil pump for the geode saw. New florescent light bulbs and ballast have been installed at the workshop also. There is a theft alarm system on the property.

The new workshop lease prepared by Carl and Marcia Richwine and Tammy Leary was discussed at length, and it was decided to take no action on several concerns expressed by members. Nevada state law allows a contract to be broken with 30 days written notice. The Board made minor word changes in the

new lease of the workshop facilities for a three-year period. It will be signed on or about August 1, 2003.

Bruce Wingate confirmed that there will be a trip to Brianhead, Utah for agates on July 19. He will check with Tom Skeary and our new member from Parowan, Utah for more information on the septarian nodule sites to visit on August 23. He is working on a Field Trip handout for new members on what to bring and how to travel safely on trips to remote areas.

Board members suggested that mineral samples for the Raffle be identified and that there be more slabs that could be made into cabachons in the Raffle.

There will be a discussion of By Laws and upcoming elections at the August Board meeting.

Since Camilla Restrepo is moving to Seattle, we need a new chairman for the Installation and Awards Banquet in December. Frank should have specific details about the site at Stewart and Eastern by August 1. The Banquet will be catered but specific arrangements must be made soon for this busy season.

Joe Hill will be in charge of the live auction that day.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Craig Edmonds at 8:40 PM.



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Minutes of the General Meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society for July 2003

Priscilla Messenger, Secretary

After Vice-President Frank Auerswald opened our meeting, he led us in our pledge to our flag and then we exchanged greetings with those around us.

Program Chairman Mary Beth Paladino began tonight's presentation on onyx and then fellow member Smitty Reeves, who is a graduate of the Gemological Institute of America, spoke.

True onyx is black chalcedony with bands or striations of white. It has a hardness of 7 while marble Mexican onyx, and cave onyx have a hardness of about 3 and are limestone calcite. Sardonyx has striations of reddish brown and white. Onyx in earlier times was used in cameos. Pieces sold as black onyx are often dyed.

Black jade is actually tougher than diamonds because its crystals interlock.

Black jet necklaces popularized by Queen Victoria are made from hard coal.

The Notes of the last meeting and the Treasurer's Report were approved.

There were 90 members and 13 guests attending this meeting.

The secretary welcomed the evening's guests including Harvey and Pat Payne, Leo Sampson, Robert Solt, Gary Balon, Natalie Vaden, Connor Campbell, Jim Grothuesmann, Brian Hart, Bob and Donna Zagone, and Joe and Natalie Horvath.

Jaen Rupperecht reminded members of the workshop hours and location. She is available during those hours to teach beading and wirewrapping. Please sign up for a class in beaded bracelets which will begin on Monday night, August 11, so that necessary supplies will be on hand.

Remember to add your name to the short waiting list for Art Lory's next faceting class.

Frank requested that people please contact him if they can help in organizing our annual Awards Banquet in December. The meal is catered but there will be some type of an auction, table

settings, etc. that need some preparation.

Our club will again prepare food baskets for senior citizens during the holiday season. Please bring non-perishable food to the September and October meetings. A Volunteer is needed to store these goods for about two months.

The club will supply hotdogs and hamburgers for the potluck meal at our gathering on Saturday, October 25th at the Ore Car Mine out near Lake Mead.

There are at least 10 kinds of rocks and minerals to collect, and we will also have tailgate exchange of rock specimens, etc.

Our Heritage Museum Rock and Mineral Show will be October 17-19. Please plan to volunteer at least a few hours to help that weekend with activities. Friday many school children will attend.

Our Kids Club will be publishing a quarterly newsletter, Rock Pups Press and needs an adult to help in the publication.

Many thanks to the adults who helped the children make cabachons at the workshop recently.

(Continued on page 6)

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August 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 Club Meeting	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Board Meeting	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 Field Trip
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Class Schedule

Cabochon—Every Wednesday from 6 until 9. Call Ed Rupprecht at 459-8747 to schedule.

Beadworking—Every Wednesday from 6 until 9 (Some Saturday classes may be available.). Call Jaen Reupprecht at 459-8747 to schedule.

Faceting—Every Thursday from 6 until 9. Call Art Lory at 648-3816 to schedule.

Silver Smithing—Every Tuesday from 6:30 until 9

Wire Wrapping—Saturdays. Call Jaen Reupprecht at 459-747 to schedule.

Call the instructors to schedule yourself into a class and to get the fees, material costs, and tools needed

Shop Schedule

Monday: 12 to 4, and 6 until 9

Tuesday: 12 until 4

Wednesday: 12 to 4, and 6 until 9

Saturday: By appointment. Call 459-8747 to schedule.

Instructors

Cabochons: Ed Rupprecht 459-8747

Faceting: Art Lory 648-3816

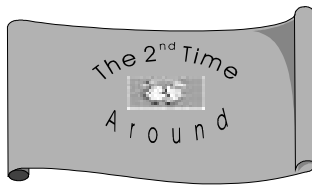
Wirewrapping: Jaen Rupprecht 459-8747

Beading: Jaen Rupprecht 459-8747

Silver Smithing: Mona Howells 645-3587

August Birthdays

Name	Day	Name	Day
Randy Hart	1	Denise Vining	19
Rick Rowley	3	Rieo Reguero	20
Iris Bernikow	4	Debbie Morgan	20
John Meyers	5	Tom Skeary	20
Maxine Riggs	13	James McLachlan	23
Dewan Curtis	13	Bruno Syzdek	23
Paul Toves	16	Priscilla Messenger	26
Heidie Copeland	17	Phyliss Syzdek	26
Ronald Woods	17	Harold McCormick	26
Henry Dziegiel	18		

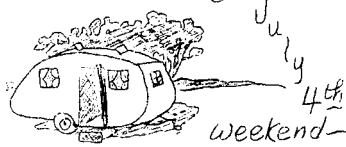


Our Past

Submitted by Bruno and Phyllis Syzdek

This article was printed in the July 1969 issue of the Polished Slab.

FIELD TRIP



TO UTAH'S PINE (BULL) VALLEY!

by Dorsey...

UP-UP-&AWAY!!! AND--those of you who have climbed "UTAH HILL" DO know what I mean! Yep! HOWARD & I finally decided to drop everything, took MITZI-O, & went on a field trip with some of the rest of the gang--in this case, the GANG was:

VI WILLIAMS, ROBIN & ROBERT (Daddy BERT hadda work--dag nab it!) . . . BOB & DAISY SMITH & ERIC (who was taking advantage of the quiet to study for an exam). . . MARIAN SCHARLEVILLE . . . LEE & DALE FERGUSON . . . JESS CHAPMAN . . . and . JULES STEINER.

The Smiths & Jules arrived Friday noonish, I but the rest of us camped overnite (if you can call from about 3 a.m. to 7 a.m. OVERNITE!)- Lee & Dale in their camper, Robin, Robert, Vi, Marian, Dorsey & Mitzi-O in (believe it or not) William's trailer--Jess & Howard fresh-aired it on the ground in sleeping bags! All was well 'till too early in the morning the BULL in the PASTURE spotted JESS & decided to come over to play! Jess promptly woke everyone up, whereupon Howard tried to get everyone to go fishing in the stream nearby. Of course, we ALL KNOW that the place for BULL is around the campfire in the evening--there was that, too,--but Jess seemed to have some sort of magic attraction for them, & the next day two thunderously huge bulls came thru our I camp (miles away from the first), gave us I the big eye, paused briefly, then went on up the creek! That was the end of any

The Polished Slab, August 2003

on-the-ground sleeping! Jess took to the back of his truck--Howard cleared out the Jeep & parked inside with Mitzi-O. Robin & Robert took turns sleeping out in the truck with Jess after we shifted our camp on Friday to a heavily-wooded spot near an old corral, which is why HOWARD & LOR-READY RIGGS couldn't find us on Saturday, though our camouflage wasn't intentional, & we'd expected them Friday morning!

We climbed up the hill past the old corral & found some petrified palm & BCG- l'm really crazy over the BOG-MUD--or whatever it is that's petrified! Jules went back to the HOTEL to stay--beats that camping out in the car, he says!--the next day he returned to leave us his little hatchet & saw to help gather up wood for the campfires--OAK, yet- & we really had some lovely fires in spite of the smoke! Jules left us for a swing around back to Vegas through Pioche.

On the last day, we took the jeep (Jess, Eric & Howard scouted it the day before to make sure the jeep could go all the way) down through the creek & on up the trail, up, up, up through the wash to a spot that was literally paved with red & yellow jasper--big hunks & small pieces! We each picked up an extra chunk for BERT & ROBIN got her Daddy a nice big chunk for bookends (carried to the car by Mister Smith who didn't go with the group, but rode his little trail bike all the way). Howard found some flatish clusters of tiny quartz crystals . . Dorsey found an old telephone insulator (patented in 1893, it said) . . Mitzi only got lost once & Smitty retrieved her on his trail bike . . Dale bounced his rock hammer off the back of his trail bike. . Lee found a rattler which Jess dispatched without incident . . we had a super-doooper steak fry . . the BULLS (after Jess, again!) stomped back through camp while we were sleeping . . Dale looked--Vi & Lee also looked, but the hammer was lost--only casualty of the trip! . . everybody got tired & dirty . . and . . the whole trip was a huge success with good company, a beautiful spot for camping AND ROCKS, the moon watched us day & night, we got back home without incident, with just about enough vittles for one more day & a leak in the radiator, but it sure was worth it!

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: TO GO ON LOTS MORE FIELD TRIPS THAN EVER BEFORE! YOU BETCHA!

(Continued from page 3)

General Meeting Minutes (cont.)

Bruce Wingate, Field Trip Chairman, told our group about the June excursion to Enterprise, Utah to get Indian blanket jasper. Thirty people made this trip.

On July 19 the club field trip will be to Brianhead, Utah for agates. Please meet at 7 AM at Exit 58, I 15 north. This site is easily accessible by car but some walking and climbing may be involved.

Save Saturday, August 23 for another trip to Utah for septarian nodules.

Please signup for these trips so you can be notified if necessary of change of plans.

Membership chairman, Glenn Beye, introduced the 23 new members who were present. Diane Hale requested information on the red opal site near Tonopah.

Mary Beth Paladino announced that the speaker at the August meeting will be the owner of the Las Vegas Zoo who is a 40-year Vegas resident and a rock collector who will bring specimens and hints on interesting field trips in Nevada.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M. and was followed by the monthly raffle. The grand prize was a large beautifully decorated wallhanging.

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A-1 has special discounts for club members. To get a discount, take in a badge, a copy of the *Polished Slab*, or some form of club membership id.

Kids Turned Loose for Furious Trim Saw Action

Patrick Leary

Let's Teach the Kids II: June 28, 2003

On a hot and sunny Saturday morning, the second installment of Let's Teach the Kids took place at our club shop.

The children and parents arrived to the awaiting instructors. After Ed generously let the kids pick out the slabs from his prized stash, the real fun began.

Ed helped select a shape on the slab for each youngster. Ed then turned the kids loose. The trim saw next saw furious action as the slabs were trimmed to make the selected shape in preparation for the Genies.

After the slab was trimmed to size, it was attached with wax to the dop sticks. These custom-made dop sticks (thank you Ed) hold the trimmed piece of slab.

The real fun started as the instructors gave the students some basic rules on the operation of the Genies.

Once the child had an idea of what to do, the instructors assisted with the rough through finishing process and a polished cabochon was created. When the cab was polished a final buffing was done on the leather wheel with Ed's special buffing compound. All were able to admire the polished handiwork of the students.

With smiles from the students, Ed and the instructors were thanked and the junior members left the shop. All in all, it was a fun way to spend a Saturday morning.

The junior members present were Aaron and Samantha Altergott, Sarina and Brenton Wingate. The parents were having just as much fun during this time.

Many thanks to Ed and Jaen Rupprecht for having the shop open on Saturday. The instructors were Ed Rupprecht, Craig Edmonds, Frank Auerswald and Patrick Leary.

We all look forward to the third installment of Let's Teach the Kids.

(Continued from page 1)

DON'T LET THE CUPBOARDS GO BARE! (cont.)

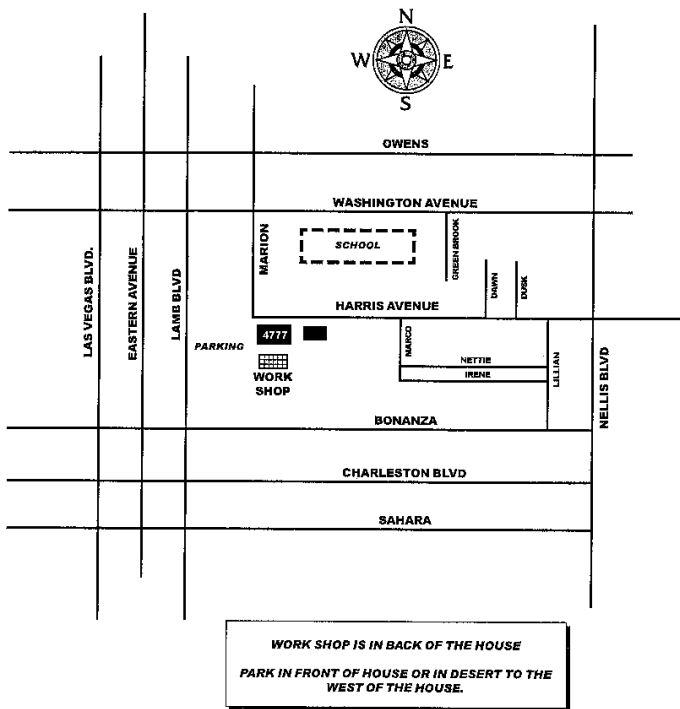
meeting. We will be placing the donated food in a central location, and after the Awards Ceremony to be held at the end of the year, we will donate as many baskets as we have, once again to the Las Vegas Senior Center through their staff, who will do the actual delivery of the baskets. Beginning right now, you can collect canned goods to bring to the meeting, where you will find barrels to be filled. Donation of large baskets is also appropriate, and would be appreciated. Ribbons and bows are acceptable as well.

If you have additional items that you cannot carry to the meetings, or would like us to come to your home for a pickup of donations, please call me at 239-0318, or my co-chair, David Pacheco, at 612-6180. We will be glad to make the pickup at your convenience. And when it's time to put the baskets together, if you want to lend a hand, we'd be more than happy to have your help!

So don't wait...the more you donate beginning now, the more we all donate when the time is come! Don't let the cupboards go bare!

WORKSHOP ADDRESS

**4777 EAST HARRIS AVENUE
459-8747**



Beading Class Starting Monday, August 11 to Create Bracelet

There will be a beading class starting Monday, the 11th at the workshop to create a right-angle weave bracelet with embellishments.

Class time is 7P.M. to 9P.M. The cost is \$10 plus materials.

Please call Maxine Riggs at 431-4523 for registration and information.

Be prepared to bring the following materials to class:

- Small sharp scissors
- Size 12 beading needle
- Size D beading thread
- Thread haven or bees wax
- Clasp
- 2 strands of 4mm fire polish beads
- 2 strands of 3mm fire polish beads
- 1 tube size 15 seed beads in the color of your choice to match and contrast.

Lapidary and Craft Equipment For Sale

Club member Joe Hill will have a garage sale the weekend of August 2-3.

For those not currently in the market for a garage, there will also be lapidary and craft equipment for sale.

The hours are 9A.M. to 4P.M. Saturday and Sunday. The address is 210 E. Rancho Drive in Henderson. It's near I515 and E. Horizon Drive.

See the map. If you get lost, Joe's phone number is 564-3339



Some Nevada Advertising History

J.L. Foutz

In the forties and fifties, before television became the advertising medium of choice, roadside billboards were common. A shaving cream manufacturer called Burma Shave became a household name with clever sayings sectioned into four or five signs like "A man named Frank...lit a match...to check his tank...that's how we got...the skinless frank."

A casino in Reno, Nevada, used extensive advertising all over the United States to lure customers. Borrowing the "Pikes Peak or Bust" slogan, the Harolds Club erected "Harolds Club or bust" signs along every major highway in the United States.

In addition to the signs, the Harolds Club hired the Thomas C. Wilson Advertising Agency of Reno to research and create newspaper ads that included short glimpses into Nevada and Western history. These advertisements were published once a week during the 40s and 50s in every legal daily and weekly newspaper in Nevada. The following is text from one of these well-written advertisements.

She Burns Green, Rosie!

Skirting the eastern rim of Death Valley, the Funeral range is as foreboding as its name, and the fact that these peaks look across a sullen desert toward Specter mountain and the Skull range further east, does little to encourage the spirit of adventure in timid souls.

But Aaron Winters and his frail, Spanish-American wife, Rosie, ventured into this ghostly country in the late seventies and settled in Ash Meadows. A hillside dugout near a tiny trickling spring was their homesite and they eked out a bare living from the unyielding desert. Often their fare consisted of mesquite beans and chuckwalla meat, primitive food of the Indians. Despite the rigorous life, Rosie maintained a link with civilization. An old starch box, used for a dressing table, supported a cherished collection of bottles that had

once contained such feminine niceties as Magnolia balm and Florida water.

Despite the knowledge that his wife longed to leave the desert, Aaron Winters couldn't bring himself to quit his prospecting and settle down to city life. Deep in his mind was the thought that somewhere in this barren country untold riches were waiting just beyond his grasp.

One night in 1880 a lone prospector wandered upon the Winters' Ash Meadows abode. As customary on the desert, the Winters asked the prospector to share their meager evening meal, and after supper the wanderer began telling of the Borax discoveries further north around Columbus.

Listening intently, Winters asked numerous questions concerning the tests that would prove the presence of borax deposits. In detail, the visitor enumerated the ingredients which, when mixed with borax and fired with alcohol, would produce a green flame

No sooner had the prospector departed th Aaron Winters took off on a long trek to San Bernardino to obtain the chemicals. Upon his return, he and Rosie traveled by foot over the Funeral range into Death Valley where Aaron suspected the existence of borax. Making camp late in the evening at Furnace Creek, they scooped out a borax sample and mixed the powdered chemicals.

In the eerie desert darkness, streaked only by the pale light of the moon, Aaron fired the sample. Breathlessly they waited, then shouted, "She burns green, Rosie, we're rich!"

The test was accurate. Within a short time the properties he located were sold to William T. Coleman and Company for twenty thousand dollars, and Coleman started Harmony Borax Works on the floor of Death Valley. It was this property, the result of Aaron Winter's green flame, that later obtained prominence through twenty mule team transportation.

Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society

P.O. Box 94744, Las Vegas NV 89193

HTTP://www.sngms.org

E-mail: admin@sngms.com

The Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was organized to educate ourselves and the community in the science and arts related to rocks, mineral, 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 active interest in Geology, Gemology and facilitate an improvement in knowledge of the art of cutting, polishing, collecting and displaying gems. We began in 1932, and became the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society in 2003. The very first Polished Slab was published in 1940 by Paul Mercer.

Officers - Board of Directors - Committee Chairmen

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					Patrick Leary	646-8192	catpurr68@lvcm.com

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Ad Size		Six Months	Year
2" by 3½"	Business Card	\$18	\$30
4¼" by 5½"	¼ Page	\$48	\$90
5½" by 8"	½ Page	\$90	\$170

First month free for club members.

All ads are to be paid prior to publication.

Make checks payable to: SNGMS, P.O. Box 94744, Las Vegas, NV 89193.

Editors: Please send exchanges to: Polished Slab Editor *P.O. Box 94744 Las Vegas NV 89193*

The Polished Slab, August 2003

Club Gemstone: Turquoise

Club Colors: Turquoise and Silver

Club Logo: Arrowhead

Club Motto: Rocks-R Us

Annual Dues

Individual: \$10.00

Family: \$15.00

Club / Membership Name Badges are available at \$8 each

Meetings: 7:00 PM the first Monday of each month at the Senior Center 450 Bonanza at Las Vegas Boulevard Las Vegas, Nevada 702-229-6454

Visitors are always welcome.

Please bring a friend or two.

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