

SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM and MINERAL SOCIETY

Las Vegas, Nevada



The Polished Slab

Volume 63, Issue 9

September 2003

Message From The President

Craig A. Edmonds

Dear Members and Friends,

I would like to dedicate this president's message to a fellow rockhound who has recently passed away on a warm August evening. Her name was Mandy and she was a dear friend for 12 years.

She died while doing one of her favorite things and that was swimming in the pool. Her other hobbies were rock collecting, hiking, pheasant hunting, ice fishing along with many others. She was always eager to hop in the car and hang her head out the window as we went off on our rock trips. She didn't collect many rocks but sure enjoyed the company.

For those of you who hadn't met her she was our Black Labrador named Mandy.

President and Friend
Craig A. Edmonds

Walt's Happy Hour

by Joan Abramson

The happy hour 'twixt six and seven
Was the closest thing to reaching heaven.

Walt struggled in the mine all day,

Gouging opal from the clay,

Climbing slowly rung by rung

Until he faced the setting sun-

That blessed hour when flies took flight

And mosquitoes hadn't yet to bite!

If he emerged too soon from toil

To put the billy on to boil,

The flies would muster for attack

And cover his poor sweating back.

He'd switch them off and watch them fall

And race like mad for the hessian stall-

A good bush shower to cleanse the grime

With a practiced eye observing time.

A plate of stew, a cup of tea-

(Continued on page7)

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Board Meeting Notes for August 2003

Priscilla Messenger, Secretary

Our meeting was called to order by President Craig Edmonds at 7 P.M. A motion was made by Vice President Frank Asuerswald that the Secretary's July Board Minutes be approved as read. Rick Kasky seconded the motion. David Finch then read the Treasurer's report and Priscilla Messenger made a motion it be accepted. Bruce Wingate seconded the motion and voting Board members approved the motion.

A discussion of the 2003 budget followed. It was decided to increase the cost of badges to \$10 per badge after October 15, 2003. Since the cost of mandatory expenses like rent of meeting place and workshop, newsletter and required CFMS insurance is now more than double the membership dues income, it appears we should increase yearly dues in January.

Tammy Leary will be the chairman of the By-Laws Committee. It was decided to continue to have one booth at Cloud's Gem Show at the Avi Casino in Laughlin in January. Members can use the booth to sell their own items if they donate 10% of the sale to the club. This show will be on our website which gets national exposure.

After investigating several meeting rooms and the bids of several caterers, Frank Auerswald recommended to the Board that we sign a contract to hold the December Installation Banquet at the California Club. Frank will print the \$10 tickets to be sold beginning at the September meeting.

A motion was made by Frank to be paid the small expense bills submitted by Larry Foutz, Newsletter Editor, and by Field Trip Chair Bruce Wingate. After Rick Kasky seconded the motion, it was passed.

Glenn Beye has inquired about a club tour of the Henderson McCaw School of Mines facility. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

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

Priscilla Messenger, Secretary

After saying the Pledge of Allegiance and welcoming our neighbors, President Edmonds welcomed guests Marlene Lande, Louise Leeds, Jean Emley and Jim Grothuesmann. and 3 new members—Robert Stevens, John Nichols and Christopher Nichols. There were 78 members in attendance.

Glenn Beyé announced our speaker for the evening, the Director of the Las Vegas Zoo, Pat Dingle. The zoo was founded 23 years ago and is used extensively by the Las Vegas School District. For many years there has been a Gem Club exhibit there. Those wishing to make a donation or buy a membership should make it through our Kids Club.

Glenn Beyé announced that the October show at the Clark County Historical Museum has been cancelled because of a big construction project at the site. He requested help from members for specimens to be displayed at the Enterprise Library on Shelbourne for the months of September and November. If anyone has Indian arrowheads or petroglyphs or other native American artifacts, those would be especially helpful for the November display. He also told members to be thinking of how our club can contribute to the Las Vegas Centennial Celebration in May 2005.

Bruce Wingate, Field Trip Chair, reported that more than 30 people enjoyed the trip for agates near Brianhead, Utah. At 10,000 foot altitude, the cool weather was a welcome contrast with Las Vegas. Our next field trip will be on Saturday, August 23. The group will meet at the Moapa Casino at Exit 75 off Route I-15 at 7:30 AM. They will travel to Orderville, Utah for septarian nodules reconvening there at Joe's Rock Shop for directions to the private, non-fee site. It is easily accessible by car. If, after gathering nodules, anyone wishes to have them cut open, the charge at the shop will be \$3 to \$5 and this includes polishing. Save September 20 for our next outing.

David Finch, Treasurer, gave his report of current balances in our accounts.

Craig reminded members that September meeting will be on the 8th, the second Monday of September. Craig pointed out the display of Ray Simpson, Artisan of the Month, which everyone can visit during the refreshment break.

The December Awards Banquet on Saturday, December 13 was discussed. Two additional rooms which will hold tables for 200 people will be investigated. Look for attendance forms in the September newsletter and on our Website. Frank Auerswald, Kathy Richmond and Roger Olsen are on the Banquet Committee.

A 15-minute refreshment break was taken at 7:50 PM. When we reconvened, Craig announced there was some electroplating equipment for sale.

Craig offered several tips from some of the newsletters we receive from other clubs:

- Put cold cream on your hands before working with rocks in your work-shop and cleanup will be easier.
- If heat from a torch or other source ignites Epoxy glue, a gas that can be very bad for your lungs can be given off.

(Continued on page 6)

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September 2003

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

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

September Birthdays

Name	Day
Diane Rogers	1
Cyndi Smith	1
John McPeak	2
Henrietta Burnett	5
Carrie Benvenuti	5
Fldamae Bischoff	8
Theresa Schmutz	9
Cory Sperling	12
C.Max Vickers	16
Stacy Pearse	19
Donna Swartz	19
Robert Brown	19
Jocelyn McPeak	21
Barbara Heim	26



Our Past

Submitted by **Bruno and Phyllis Syzdek**

This article was printed in the **October 1979** issue of the **Polished Slab**.

President's Message

The club's Labor Day trip to Parowan, Utah was a complete success. Twenty-three members took part in some fine rockhounding. we couldn't have asked for better weather. The nights were in the 30's and the days in the 80's.

Mike Stapleton arrived early and found a swell camping area right next to a creek. The water was cold and Mike took a bath twice in ill How he could slant it as cold as it was, I will never know!

Nancy and I didn't get there until Saturday afternoon, and Mike and some of the others had been out since early in the morning. After catching a few zzz's, Mike took us on a rock trip that afternoon. We all loaded into four vehicles and set off. We didn't have to go far, but we must have climbed 2000 feet. Rocks were plentiful and we all came back with all we could carry.

Back at camp we all were as hungry as bears, so everyone set out to cook. After dinner, we all sat around a huge campfire. The sun goes down early in the mountains and so does the temperature. Most of us had jackets on. We talked on important subjects as dogs, cats, fish and just about any subject you can imagine. By 9:00 p.m. everyone was ready for the sack, so the fire was let to die down before and before long, everyone was making Zzzz's.

Sunday, after breakfast, Mike led another trip up into the mountains. We saw scenery you wouldn't believe and did we do the climbing! When we got to the top of Brianhead, we could see 75 miles with so many colors. Rockhounding there was rough. A climb of about 200 feet down to another creek and material was all around us. The climb back up that hill with our prizes had to show the labor of love for our hobby. Slow and easy with rest stops along the way. You might say a 200 ft. climb isn't that bad, but at 10,000 feet elevation, it is something else. On the way back, we stopped at an overlook point, which looked just like Bryce Canyon.

Back at camp we all took a few Zzz's and then loafed around until chow time. Another huge campfire after eating with much talk.

Monday, we broke camp early and left. What a time we all had.

Thanks Mike and Hal for making it such a swell trip.

Those present were Pat Cranshaw; Cliff & Donna Kaiser; Mike Stapleton; Hal and Betty Bres; Joe, Jim & Connie Price; Don VanHoy; Mark Zeider; Carl & Nancy Trakel; Milton & Evelyn Eggen; Charles Tatom; Edward Rupprecht; Bob & Daisy Smith; Dwight LaRue, Barbara Elmer; Robert & Inetta Eylar.

Your President,

Carl rakel

(this ~~8504080856~~ ty; typewriter jammed up above --- please excuse the typing there!)

General Meeting Minutes (cont.)

- Apply salad oil to necklace chains that tangle, makes straightening them easier.

Don Bowser reported that he had taken 25 pounds of soda can tabs to the Ronald McDonald House as our club contribution to their needs. They were very grateful . Please continue to save these and give to Don or Candy Bowser.

Please bring large baskets and food that can be stored canned goods, pasta, rice , etc. to our September -November meetings for the Christmas baskets we make up for the elderly and confined. Susan Davlin and David Pacheco will collect what you bring.

The beading class by Maxine will begin on Monday, August 11 from 7-9 PM at the workshop. The materials cost \$10 for making a right angle weave bracelet. See further details in the August newsletter.

A Nominating Committee to select nominees to run for club offices in the November election has been selected. They are Smitty Reeves, Greg Cordes, George Messenger, Glenn Beye and Tom Skeary.

Organizers who volunteered to help with the Fall Potluck on Saturday, October 25 at the Ore Car Mine site near Lake Mead are Wes Bryant, Greg Cordes, Carl Fields and Simy Bryant

Craig announced that there will be a workshop cleanup day when the weather becomes cooler. Jaen Rupprecht recognized Roger Olsen for the time and expertise he devoted to upholstering the stools at the workshop. Art

Lory has earned enough from his faceting classes to pay for one of the new faceting machines!

Former member and club president, Jim Paulis , sent word that Friday and Saturday, August 22 and 23, will be Goldfield Days celebration. There will be a 9 AM parade on Saturday and then there will be land auctions, etc. Listen for more details by Jim on KDWN radio on August 16 at 9 PM.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned for themonthly Rock Raffle.

Longtime Club Member Betty Lemmon Passes Away

The club has received the sad news that longtime club member Betty Lemmon has recently passed away.

Cards, kind thoughts and prayers can be sent to her husband, Bill, at 3604 Diamond Head Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89110.

Notes From Other Newsletters

In a cave in central France, a “NeanderthaV s collection was found. It consisted of a piece of fool’s gold (pyrite), fossil shells and coral.

All objects were collected miles from the cave. They showed no signs of being worn; instead, they apparently were placed in the comer for the owner to admire 50,000 years ago! ref: The Calgary Lapidary Journal 6/02; via The Rock Collector 3/97

Did you know that the “blossoms” are not squash, but a stylized version of the pomegranate flower or its immature fruit? That the design originated in Mediterranean countries? That the pomegranate configuration, a common Spanish motif, was probably brought by the Spaniards to Mexico, where it was adopted by the Mexican platero (silversmith)? Later it was used by the Navajo, who apparently began working with it sometime between 1850 and 1870 and are believed to have been the first historic North American Indian silversmiths. The crescent-shaped pendant the naja - was also brought to the Indian Territory by the Spaniards.

From Westminister Colorado via Rocky Review 02/03

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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.

(Continued from page 1)

Walt's Happy Hour (cont.)

Luxurious tranquility!

No king felt such a state of bliss;

No pub could ever equal this!

To others, "happy hour" is beer,

Repeated shouts and yarns and cheer.

But Walt's best time was that which lies

Between mosquitoes and the flies!

Copyright © Joan Abramson 2001 .

Joan Abramson gives permission to reprint her poem for non-commercial newsletters.

Note from the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. August Newsletter:

Joan is a member of the North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society. She and her husband Walt rockhounded in Australia years ago.

Ore Car Mine Potluck Happening October 25

Craig Edmonds

A Field Trip and Potluck is happening at the Ore Car Mine on October 25th.

There will be rock collecting throughout the day at the Ore Car Claim. Also, there will be a rock exchange and sale by all members. Bring your rock and sell it from the back of your car.

The Potluck is at 12 noon. The club will provide hamburgers and hot dogs and the members will bring a dish to pass. Bring your own table, plates, beverages and silverware.

There will be a sign up sheet at the next meeting on September 8th, or contact Wes & Simy Bryant at 228-3331 or Carl Fields & Heide Zimmerman at 263-2689. Please let them know how many are coming and what your dish to pass will be.

Lets have a big turnout for this one.

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HAVE YOU PLANNED YOUR GIFT-GIVING YET?

Susan Davlin, Food Basket Donations Chair

Have you purchased your holiday gift-wrapping yet? Did you know that planning for the season has to begin nine- to twelve-months before a specific holiday for vendors? In order for them to have that beautiful angel wrapping paper that you so love in stock, they have to order it by March! Yes...planning, so that they can offer a variety to shoppers at the right time.

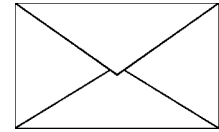
Planning is also what the Society must do for our seasonal gift-giving program. Beginning now, in the summer months, we garner member support and remind you to bring non-perishable food items for the pantry so that we can fill baskets later. It's easy to pick up donation items while doing your own shopping, and we hope that you will remember to bring them to the monthly meeting to drop into the collection bins.

But, there is another way for you to be involved as a sponsor for the holiday gift-basket donations from the Society, as well. Instead of carrying the bags to the meetings, or even home from the store, you can choose to donate money that will be used to purchase food products when it's time for distribution. You can choose your own comfortable level, and you can do so one time, once a month, or whatever suits your own plan. Simply use the coupon below and send it, along with your check in the amount of your donation, to the Society. The donation will be held in reserve until it's time to go shopping to fill the baskets, and your name will be added to the list of donors! That's the easiest wrapping you'll have to do this year!

So...a little planning goes a long way – want to start with your holiday gift-wrapping now?

<p><input type="radio"/> YES! I want to donate for the SNGMS seasonal food baskets</p> <p>Enclosed is my donation of</p> <p><input type="radio"/> \$5.00 <input type="radio"/> \$10.00 <input type="radio"/> \$20.00</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____ Please enter your donation amount</p> <p>NAME: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>Telephone: _____</p> <p><i>Mail this, along with your check, to Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society FOOD BASKET DONATIONS Post Office Box 94744, Las Vegas, NV 89193-4744</i></p>
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Letters



From: Lewis Helfrich

To: c1edmonds@lvcm.com

Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2003 8:08 PM

Subject: Bakersfield California's 2nd Annual Rock and Mineral Rendezvous

Hello, My name is Lew Helfrich from Helfrich's Jewelry Creations here in Bakersfield, California.

On March 20th and 21st 2004 we will be sponsoring Bakersfield California's 2nd annual Rock and Mineral Rendezvous at the Kern County Fair Grounds, 1142 South P. Street.

It would be appreciated if your club could post this event and we would also like to invite your club to join us . There is ample room for tail gaiters and shower facilities. There will be vendors from all over the United States and several from a abroad selling Rocks, minerals, fossils, beads, and lapidary equipment .

There will be demonstrations through out the show , grab bags and silent auctions. Over 100 booths (with room to expand)with a large variety of unique and unusual items made from Mother Earth.

Come join us for a fun filled weekend the whole family will enjoy. **FREE PARKING AND FREE ADMISSION**

For information on attending this event or becoming a vendor please contact Lew Helfrich or Bob Randall at;

Helfrich's Jewelry Creations, 1723 Columbus Street, Bakersfield, California 93305, Ph. (661)872-8230 or e-mail me at lewsrocks@netzero.net.

We are in need of vendors. Last year was a great success and each year we would like to expand. Your help would be appreciated.

Thank you.

If you have any questions please call or e-mail me. Lew Helfrich's Jewelry Creations

1723 Columbus Street Bakersfield , California 93305 Ph (661)872-8230.

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.

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

The Polished Slab, September 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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