

# SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM and MINERAL SOCIETY

Las Vegas, Nevada



## The Polished Slab

Volume 64, Issue 1

January 2004

### Message From The President

*David Rogers*

Dear Members and Friends,

Fellow members, I would like to thank all of you in welcoming and supporting me in my new endeavor. With kind and supportive words, my decision to run for President has been made much easier. I hope this message finds all our members enjoying a happy holiday season.

December, SNGMS completed the International Gem and Jewelry Show at Cashman Center. Our show had considerable competition from other activities in Las Vegas that weekend. This did not dim the enthusiasm of our members. With pride in our skills and the love for the many wonders of nature, our members continued to work hard.

I, as the new incoming President, would like to personally thank all our members for their hard work and dedication. Thanks for all the wonderful displays and the effort to assemble them. As well, I truly needed all the help in showing me the ropes.

Our awards banquet was the grand finale to a very successful year. For members who were not able to attend, I would like to extend congratulations to the

SNGMS Member of The Year Glenn Beye. Also congratulations to all other deserving award winners. Thanks to all our hard working members for their contributions to our success. We are now looking forward to the beginning of a new and exciting year. I feel strongly that our longtime and new members will unite to strengthen our club. We can and will continue to be an integral part of the Las Vegas community.

In closing, I would like to convey a very special thanks to all our departing board members and officers. We are very grateful for their time and attention to our clubs needs. Craig and Frank will continue to help lead our club as board members. Lets all role up our sleeves and get going on new trips and shows.

Ray Simpson    Evarae McAfee

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# Board Meeting Notes for November 2003

*Priscilla Messenger, Secretary*

President Craig Edmonds called the SNGMS Board Meeting to order at 7 PM. Vice-president Frank Auerswald moved that the minutes of the November Board Meeting and the Treasurer's Report be approved as read, Arty Lory seconded this motion, and it was approved.

Show Chairman Glenn Beye reported that our December Show cleared \$935 after expenses. He reported that the people at Cashman and our enthusiastic volunteers were very helpful and cooperative. Suggestions for the next show included a flashing light or a popcorn machine to draw people to our attractions, going back to a casino near a food concession, having a \$5 wheel, selling polished cabachons, and consensus that the rental of a U-Haul vehicle was worth the expense. Seventeen new members joined the club at the show. The display cases were outstanding, and many attendees showed much interest.

Field Trip Chair Bruce Wingate announced the January trip will be to Nelson, Nevada for chalcedony and fire agate. He will apply in early January to get the group site at Burro Creek, Arizona for April 15-18. Bruce is contacting other clubs like the one in Kingman, Arizona for several combined trips. David Finch, Treasurer, suggested our club also check more closely on trips offered by CFMS. Their trip to Afton Canyon (Interstate 15 near Baker) recently for jasper and agate was well-attended. David's motion to buy 100 nationally recognized rockhound stickers to sell to members passed.

The Cloud's Jamboree at Avi Casino Campground near Laughlin begins January 10th. Book your \$20/night rooms, requesting Block #8204 as our club has a booth. The California Federation of Mineral Societies is planning a dinner for vendors at 3 PM on the following Wednesday. We will discuss a possible potluck for our club at this show at our January 5th meeting.

Frank Auerswald, Awards Banquet Chair, announced there will be 94 members attending the banquet with 2004 officers installation, awards, and a Chinese auction. The committee has worked hard on this annual event to be held at the California Club Casino downtown from 12 noon to 4 PM on Saturday, December 13th. Judi Auerswald

announced that \$368.06 was raised by our club members to be donated for Christmas Food Baskets for Seniors at our meeting site.

"The Polished Slab" editor, Larry Foutz, requested more stories, educational columns or tips from members. Tom Ainsworth, Club Librarian, requested that his book table at each meeting be pointed out before our Refreshment Break. He will write a short column to be put in our newsletter about all the publications he has for members to borrow.

A motion was made by George Messenger that the club pay for the video recently made on Lost Wax Casting as long as the club can take possession of the rings made so the cost can be recovered through a raffle of these items. The motion passed and Craig will contact Art Patton about this matter. The video will be shown at some future meeting.

Action on the final draft of the new Club Bylaws, the Lifetime Members and the purchase of club shirts, etc. was postponed until the January Board Meeting. The Board is attempting to find where the new Club banners we had at the June Gem Show are being stored.

In-coming President, David Rogers and Vice-President, Larry Grillett announced that most volunteer positions had been filled for the year 2004.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

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# “Interesting and Productive” Wiley Well District— A Field Trip Destination

*Dick Pakey, CFMS Field Trip Chair*

The Wiley Well District is southwest of Blythe and is one of the most popular collecting areas on the Colorado Desert. Although this has been a productive area for many years, it still offers an amazing variety of material. We will collect at five main sites; one site each day. This is my sixth field trip to this interesting and productive area. Besides the more noted collecting areas, we will also be exploring other areas.

Directions to campgrounds: Exit Interstate 10 at Wiley Well Rd. which is approximately 10 miles west of Blythe and 31 miles east of Desert Center. Follow Wiley Well Rd. south for 12.5 miles to campsite on west side of road at the Riverside/Imperial Co. line. Watch for ORANGE PAPER PLATES to camp. Roads to campgrounds and collecting sites are typical desert roads. OK for motor homes and trailers to campgrounds. OK for cars to most collecting areas. This is a dry camping area: no services, no hook-ups. This is the Mule Mountain LTVA.

Collecting Trips: All trips will leave at 8:00 AM, SHARP, from the campgrounds. Assemble at 7:45 for details and instructions for each day’s trip. Sunday, Feb. 1

Arrive at camp. Monday, Feb. 2 AM— Hauser Beds for geodes, sizes of lemons to cantaloupes. Digging tools — shovels, picks, gads, etc. PM— Explore the Corn Field for corn colored, crystal lined amygdules. Tuesday, Feb. 3 AM— Hidden Saddle beds and a “New” geode bed for geodes PM— “New” agate area Wednesday, Feb. 4 AM— Potato Patch for egg-size geodes. Digging tools — shovels, picks, gads, etc. PM— Explore the Big Windy for botryoidal psilomelane, geodes, agate and nodules. Thursday, Feb. 5 AM — Straw Bed for geodes, sizes of lemons to cantaloupes . Digging tools — shovels, picks, gads, etc. PM — South of Camp on Milpitas Wash Rd. for psilomelane. Friday, Feb. 6 To be determined

(Continued on page 6)

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# January 2004

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

## Class Schedule

- Cabochon** — Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 12 until 4; and Monday and Wednesday from 7 until 9. Call Ed Rupprecht at 459-8747 to schedule.
- Beading** — Every other Monday from 7 until 9. Call Jaen Rupprecht 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 7 until 9. Call Mona at 645-3587 to schedule.
- Wire Wrapping** — Saturdays. Call Jaen Rupprecht at 459-8747 to schedule.

## 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.

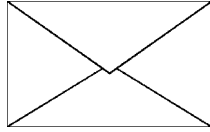
### Instructors

**Cabochons:** Ed Rupprecht 459-8747  
**Faceting:** Art Lory 648-3816  
**Wirewrapping:** Jaen Rupprecht 459-8747  
**Beading:** Jaen Rupprecht 459-8747, Maxine Riggs 431-4523  
**Silver Smithing:** Mona Howells 645-3587

## January Birthdays

Name	Day	Name	Day
Hilary Grillett	1	Bob Zagone	19
Clare Breneman	2	Shannon Boyce	20
Carl Fields	2	Donna Hoffmann	20
Diane Burgess	4	Pauline Moore	20
Mimi Peak	5	John Swartz	20
Russell Gremor	7	Beth Riley	21
Robert Hanks	8	Dorothy Hansen	23
Robert Hull	9	Kathi Meyers	24
Jessica Sellers	10	Jerry Bertschi	25
Charlyn Nishiuchi	11	Kristina Hamilton	26
Larry Overture	11	Elaine Kennedy	27
Carolyn Chervenak	14	Pat Skeary	29
Kathleen Mills	14	Ken Hofmann	30
James Cordes	16	Walter Lombardo	31
Simy Bryant	18	Brigit Markovic	31
Jack Toogood	19		

# Letters



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Terry Wright

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Frank Scott  
E. Parry Thomas

November 25, 2003

Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society  
P.O. Box 94744  
Las Vegas, NV 89193

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the students, faculty, and administration of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, we are grateful for your donation of \$1,000.00 to the Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society (S.N.G.M.S.) Scholarship fund. Enclosed is a receipt for your gift.

The success of students attending UNLV is greatly enhanced by the support they receive from private scholarship gifts such as yours. Your support signifies your dedication to helping ensure that students successfully complete their education with confidence that their financial obligations will be met.

The national recognition the University of Nevada, Las Vegas has earned is a direct result of the financial support provided from private donations. We at the University appreciate your support. Again, thank you for your commitment to UNLV and our students.

Sincerely,

Wendy Nelson Director of Development, Scholarship Programs

Enclosure

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(Continued from page 3)

### Wiley Well District Field Trip (cont.)

Day	AM/PM	Field Trips
Sunday, Feb 1		Arrive at camp.
Monday, Feb 2	AM	Hauser Beds for geodes, sizes of lemons to cantaloupes. Digging tools, shovels, picks, gads, etc.
	PM	Explore the Corn Field for corn colored, crystal lined amygdules.
Tuesday, Feb 3	AM	Hidden Saddle beds and a "New" geode bed for geodes
	PM	"New" agate area
Wednesday, Feb 4	AM	Potato Patch for egg-size geodes. Digging tools Ñ shovels, picks, gads, etc.
	PM	Explore the Big Windy for botryoidal psilomelane, geodes, agate and nodules.
Thursday, Feb 5	AM	Straw Bed for geodes, sizes of lemons to cantaloupes. Digging tools Ñ shovels, picks, gads, etc.
	PM	South of Camp on Milpitas Wash Rd. for psilomelane
Friday, Feb 6	AM	To be determined
	PM	To be determined

Plan on several potluck dinners, the first on Monday evening, and daily happy hours. Bring firewood for evening campfires. We plan on having a good time and collecting some good geodes and good material. Come join us for a great rockhound time of collecting, fun and fellowship.

Please notify me by 1/8/04 if you plan to attend. Call or email me if you have questions or need more information:

Dick Pankey  
 Field Trip Chairman  
 4310 Kingsly Dr.  
 Pittsburg, CA 94565  
 (925) 439-7509

### General Information

- This trip will coordinate well with a trip to Quartzsite. The QIA Pow Wow is 1/28 to 2/1, Desert Garden is 1/1 to 2/28, Main Event is 1/16 to 2/28 and Tyson Wells is 1/2 to 11 and 1/16 to 1/25.

- There is a dump station at the Rest Stop at the Wiley Well exit off of I-10; however, there is no potable water. Blythe has a free dump station and good water 2 blocks south of I-10 at the Lovkin Ave. exit. Blythe is a good place to get food, supplies, ice and gasoline. It is approximately 25 miles from Blythe to the campsite.

- There are numerous good motels in Blythe with a wide range of rates.

- The closest town to the campsite is Palo Verde, approximately 16 miles through Coon Hollow and over the Mule Mtns. There is a convenience store (food, etc.), gasoline, a couple of restaurants and a rock shop in Palo Verde. Road OK for trucks but not for cars.

- We will monitor CB channel 14 at camp for arrivals and other information and CB channel 4 when caravanning to collecting sites.

- We are planning for nice weather — warm sunny days; cool, clear, star filled nights. But remember it can rain this time of year so be prepared and plan ahead.

- Blythe is approximately 650 miles from San Francisco and 137 miles from Los Angeles.

- Opal Hill fire agate mine is about 3 miles from camp. This is a fee dig area for fire agate and micromount crystals including apatite, barite, calcite, fluorite and gypsum. Tools needed are hammers, gads, regular and star chisels, eye protection, stiff bristle brush, etc.

- Carry your lunch and water when going to collecting sites. We will not come back to camp during the day.

Help with the entertainment at happy hours and campfires: bring along an instrument if you play one; bring a song, a story or joke to share.



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Hours: 10 - 10

Bert Grisham (909) 849-1674 /  
[grish1@msn.com](mailto:grish1@msn.com)

February 21-22 2004, Stockton, CA

## Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Club

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1658 South Airport Way

Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4

Jim Dunlap (209) 488-0747 /  
[jimsopals@comcast.net](mailto:jimsopals@comcast.net)

March 5-7 2004, Hayward, CA

## Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley

Centennial Hall; 22292 Foothill Blvd.

Hours: Fri. - Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 5

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March 6-7 2004, Arcadia, CA

## Monrovia Rockhounds

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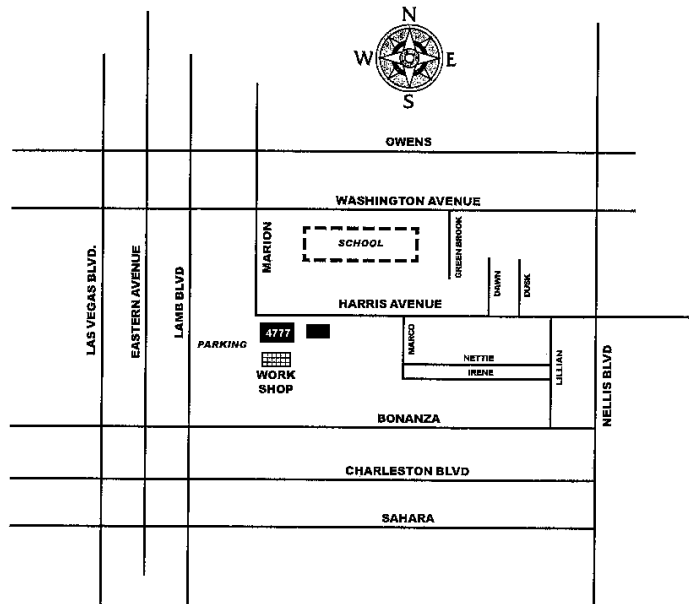
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## Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society

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

<b>President:</b>	Dave Rogers	260-6344	dkdr9900@cox.net	<b>Field Trips:</b>	Bruce Wingate	547-6590	
<b>Vice President:</b>	Larry Grillett	656-0262	larry_grillett@yahoo.com	<b>Hospitality:</b>	Carl and Marcia Richwine	263-4846	
<b>Secretary:</b>	Priscilla Messenger	733-6578	gpmessenger@cox.net	<b>Historian:</b>	Bruno & Phyllis Syzdek	876-3861	bsyzdek@mac.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Dave Finch	655-6344	lovit@cox.net	<b>Librarian:</b>			
<b>Parliamentarian &amp; Sergeant at Arms:</b>				<b>Refreshments:</b>	Ron Antoku	579-4759	
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<b>Website Liaison:</b>	Carolyn Edmonds	838-0012	c1edmonds@cox.net	<b>Programs:</b>	Marybeth Paladino	255-1647	
<b>Federation Director:</b>	Jaen Rupprecht	459-8747	jekazrock@aol.com	<b>Shop Forman:</b>	Ed Rupprecht	459-8747	jekazrock@aol.com
<b>Show Chairman:</b>	Glenn Beye	655-0280	beyedad@aol.com		Carl Richwine	263-4846	clrichwine@aol.com
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4¼" by 5½"	¼ Page	\$48	\$90
5½" by 8"	½ Page	\$90	\$170

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**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, January 2004

**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.

The Polished Slab  
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