

SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM and MINERAL SOCIETY

Las Vegas, Nevada



The Polished Slab

Volume 64, Issue 2

February 2004

Message From The President

David Rogers

Wow here we are starting a new year already. Einstein said that time is relative. I do believe that is true. When we are young time seems to move so slowly. When we are older there is never enough time to do what we need done?

As I assume the role of our new Club president, I would like to urge each and every one of us to take a moment and thank those that came before me. Through their efforts and dedication we have a great organization called the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society.

I would like to use this forum to give a very SPECIAL THANKS to all our recent volunteers. Bruce Wingate has accepted the position as our

new Federation Director. Greg Cordes Parliamentarian, Patricia Grillett - Hostess, Ron Antoku - Refreshments, Roger Olson - Inventory, Charlotte Robinson Shunshine, Sharon Rogow, Simae Sherrett and Carol Leo - Show Committee, and lastly Gary Belton and Sharon Rogow as Publicity. Thank You.

Let each and every one of us make a New Year's Resolution to do things in 2004 to make this one of the best years ever for our

club. We have many new members (including me) that enjoy our learning experiences of gems and mineral. Our longtime members have a wealth of knowledge. I am asking for those members to create a short presentation to share with our Club members. With this sharing of knowledge we will continue to have Rock hounds for many more generations. Thanks you all in advance for your help with this project.

In closing we have more opportunity for members to share their time. We have two very important appointments needing filled. They are Special Events, Programs and raffle Chairmanship. If you would like to participate please contact one of the board members.

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Board Meeting Notes for January 2004

Priscilla Messenger, Secretary

The Board Meeting was called to order by President David Rogers. There was no Treasurer's Report as our Treasurer, David Finch, was ill.

The President gave each Board member a copy of the proposed budget. Final adjustments will be made in February after the Membership List is compiled on January 31. The California Federation of Mineral Societies requires a \$6.00 fee for every member of our club. The shop insurance is separate and has been paid for 2004. A discussion was held on keeping the newsletter costs down. At our General meeting in February, the members will be asked if they have access to our website to receive the newsletter and other documents like the new By-laws.

Frank Auerswald will look into having a florist who will set up an account for us to handle funeral wreaths and table flowers at our annual banquet. Wes Bryant has set up an arrangement with Western Woods of St. George, Utah to buy items for our Raffle and our proposed \$5 wheel at upcoming shows.

A presentation from the Long-Range Goals Committee was made on some of the options for investment of our funds. Purchasing, renting or building a workshop were investigated. A minimum monthly expenditure of \$450 per month would be required to pay the taxes, utilities, and insurance on a 2500 square foot building. Further investigation will be made into building on public land, securing funds from philanthropic organizations like the Lied or Barrick Trusts and getting donations of materials and/or labor. Some or all of the \$4,000 our present investment earns could be earmarked to a Building Fund but then we would need more volunteers for fundraisers to balance our budget. The Committee will put their findings into a written proposal to bring before the membership.

Perhaps our club members will volunteer to run the Food Concession at the Heritage Museum Show in October for 3 full days. Frank Auerswald was authorized to tentatively ask Mona Howells to submit our club's application for this concession. Frank Auerswald will make a presentation to the membership in February on this matter. We must have enough volunteers committed to this project before final club commitment. Some members will have their own booths, and we need others to man the wheels

and the geode saw, etc. so we may not have members enough to take on this concession.

The updated By-Laws will be presented for approval by the membership in the next two months. We hope to have a video presentation for our program in February. Please see that Charlotte Robinson, our new Sunshine Chair, has any information about members who are in need of sunshine so that she can tell our membership at our monthly meeting and in her column in our newsletter. It was decided that we would have fewer raffle items of better quality at our monthly raffles.

Don Casey has volunteered to teach a class on making clocks from mineral slabs if the workshop can accommodate such a class. President Dave Rogers requested that all Board Members submit a list of persons qualified to help the membership learn more about rocks and mineral identification and making useful or decorative items from them. We hope to feature one artist each month. Bruce Wingate will give details of the February 21st field trip at the February general meeting so members can sign up for this trip.

There being no further business to transact, the Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

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Our Past

Submitted by Bruno and Phyllis Syzdek

The December 1987 issue of Gem Time Bulletin of the Las Vegas Gem Club was dedicated by the club to their 20th anniversary. Due to the length of their history, it will be presented in several issues of the Polished Slab.

This month we start with President Phyllis Reis' message and page one.

Phyllis and Bruno Syzdek, Historians

GEM TIME

20TH ANNIVERSARY

DECEMBER 1987



FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Time has come to bid adieu ('87)
This year has been just great-
Everyone working together
Has made our 20th year first rate.

Quartzsite was a sight to see,
If you haven't - you should, I know;
The work parties developed talent and fun
Working together for a great, great show.

Keep up our fight for "multiple use,"
Don't let them fence off what's free;
The lawmakers have to know our views,
That means letters from you and me.

That special find is just over the hill,
Take advantage of the trips your chairman plans;
Watch your "Gem Time" for all the news
Enjoy the campfires, the trips, the lands.

A damp, damp tailgate goes to show
We are not just fair-weather friends;
Also we will gather on December 6th
To share a prayer, bread and shake hands.

A personal thanks to all,
Phyllis



February 2004

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

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

February Birthdays

Name	Day
Shirley Sampson	2
Art Banuelos	3
Jim Benvenuti	3
Edythe Cripe	3
Jeff Boyce	5
Craig Edmonds	5
Robert Black	7
William Bennett	9
Anne Bischoff	9
Sphie Skulsky	14
Ronald Manning	15
Leon Pruet	19
Bob Zagone	19
Joseph Lavryk	22
Ronald Vignari	26
Deborah Evans	27

Minutes of the General Meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society for January 2004

Priscilla Messenger, Secretary

Our first meeting of the new year was presided over by President David Rogers. He led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and we all greeted our neighbors. The new Board of our club was introduced. Other volunteer posts were filled: Greg Cordes, Parliamentarian; Bruce Wingate, California Federation of Mineral Societies representative; Patricia Grillett, Hostess; Ron Antoku, Refreshments; Roger Olson, Inventory; Charlotte Robinson, Sunshine; Sharon Rogow, Simae Sherrett and Carol Leo, Show Committee; and Gary Belton and Sharon Rogow, Publicity. Please call a Board member if you could help as Program Chair, Raffles Chair or Special Events coordinator this year.

The Minutes of the November General Meeting and the November and December Board Minutes will be published in the January newsletter. David Finch gave the Treasurer's Report. Approximately \$800 was made by our club at the December Gem and Mineral Show at Cashman Field. Look for more details on the Show by 2003 Show Chair, Glenn Beye in the January newsletter, "The Polished Slab".

Please call Evelyn Calloway at 897-0271 if you have an interest in several torches and a powerful buffing machine that she can no longer use in her silversmithing hobby. Librarian Ainsworth brings many books, etc. to each monthly meeting to loan out to members. Please take a minute at our Refreshment Break to investigate these resources.

Bruce Wingate, Field Trip Chair, announced that the dates of the field trips in the first 6 months of this year will be in the January newsletter. On all field trips members should bring rock tools, a bucket for collecting specimens, hiking boots, water, lunch, hat and sunscreen. Most trips require 4-wheel drive vehicles but sometimes members with such vehicles can take passengers. Diane Burgess reminded everyone to check the oil and tires of your vehicle before each trip. New members should introduce themselves so longtime members can help them on their early field trips. The January field trip is on Saturday, January 17, leaving at 8 AM from the parking lot of the Railroad Pass Casino near Boulder City. The destination is Nelson, an old goldmining town off Route 95 south. We will be collecting chalcedony roses and fire agate. Extra caution will be

needed as this is quail -hunting season. Carolyn Edmonds will see that Ellen Reeves, who is our Website director, updates field trip information. Please hold the third weekend in April for our annual 3-day weekend trip to Burro Creek, Arizona. The Saturday night potluck is always a club highlight.

After our Refreshment Break, President Rogers offered members a printout of the various gem and mineral shows held each January at Quartzsite and Avi, Arizona. Our club has a booth at Avi where members can sell their goods tax-free. You give 10% of your profits to the club for this privilege.

New members Wayne Barter, Jack and Maria Manchaca, Jerry Rittesen, Harmon Herring, Lou Rothstine, Tom Slaughter, Leslie Hoffman and Vicky Jones were welcomed by President Rogers. Guests included Jim Rodman, Carol Leo, John Swartz, George Swarthing, and Alina Eng. January Attendance was 93 people.

Clare Breneman reported on the December Awards Banquet at the California Hotel. The Chinese Auction at the banquet made \$487.00 to offset expenses.

The motion to reserve the California Hotel for Saturday, December 11, 2004 from 12 noon to 4 PM was made by Diane Burgess and seconded by Vice-President, Larry Grillett. The motion passed.

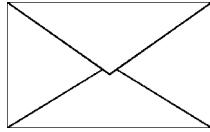
There being no further business, our meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.



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Letters



Mysterious Montana Agate Scenes Seen by Microscope as Flaws

Contributed by Dave Rogers

*The Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society would like to thank Wilma Lavoie and Jean Bosman for donating the lovely jewelry Christmas tree, a lighted decoration, for our raffle. To show our appreciation, we would like to ask our members to save any broken odds and ends, single ear rings, etc of jewelry for them. Hopefully, they will become members of our club. Thank you
Donna Swartz*

It has always been a mystery how the peculiar little scenes got inside a rock as hard as agate. It is the claim of geologists that the spots were caused by infinitely minute seams of fissures in the softer parts of the rock being filled with metallic oxides when the world was young.

These oxides made four different colors that form various combinations of color when blended together, or appear in single colors in each rock. The red color is oxide of iron. The black is oxide of manganese. The green is oxide of copper. The blue is oxide of nickel.

This theory has been elaborated by the help of high powered microscopes which show the tracings of little canals so close the naked eye could not detect it, but the oxides remained, staining the rocks in wonderful designs. The fern-like and branch effects of the trees, grass, and shrubbery, smaller canals from a common center and in addition to these canals, the rock became flawed through shrinkage while passing through a period of evaporation which, according to scientists, has taken more than 3 million years to reduce the stone to the hardness of 7 points on the Mohs scale.

These canals and flaws have been perfectly healed by soft silicate formations of which the stone is a part, and the evaporation has caused the oxides to take on such forms as are seen on the window after a frosty night.

Technically, Montana agate is known as "Dendrite" agate and the moss spots are called Dendrites. It is the third hardest stone in the world, and is cut only with a diamond saw. There can never be two pieces alike even though cut from the same stone.

(from Rock Writings, via Strata Gem 2/01, via Golden Spike News, 3/01) up neatly in the hollow. (Via Golden Spike News, 5/01)

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Upcoming Field Trip Dates and Destinations

Bruce Wingate, Field Trip Chair

Date	Destination
February 21	TBA
March 20	TBA
April 15-18	Burro Creek, Arizona
May 15	TBA
June 19	TBA

TBA = To be announced

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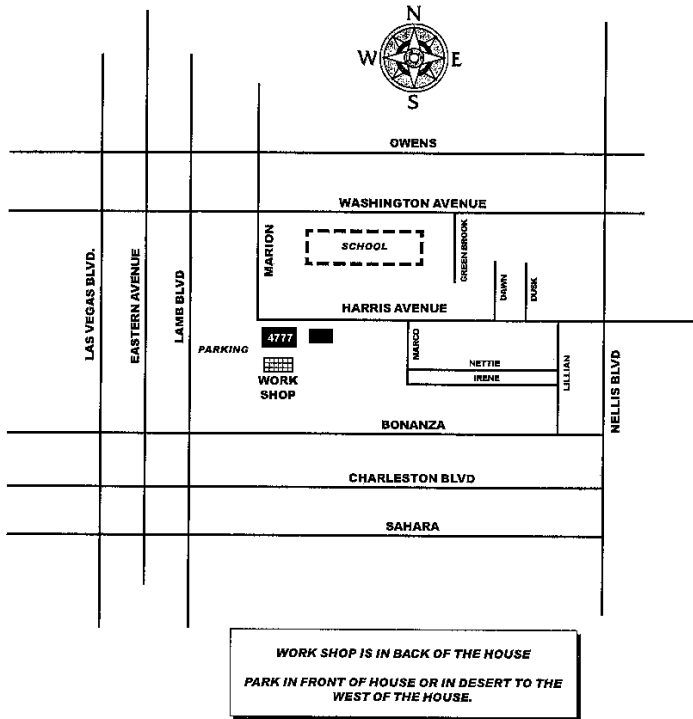
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Quartz' Compositional Common Twin— The Semiprecious Silica Mineral, Agate

Dave Rogers

Agate is a common semiprecious silica mineral that has long been used as a gem and ornamental. Agate is the most common variety of **chalcedony** which is a form of quartz. Agate is, in fact, identical with quartz in composition and physical properties. Composed of silicon dioxide (SiO_2), it has a hardness of 7, a glassy luster, a conchoidal fracture, and a specific gravity of 2.60.

Most agates occur in cavities of eruptive rocks or ancient lavas. These agates have a banded structure, successive layers being approximately parallel to the sides of the cavity. During crystallization, the colored bands are not disturbed. Varieties of agate are characterized by peculiarities in the shape and color of the bands, which are seen in sections cut at right angles to the layers.

Agate forms when gas bubbles trapped in solidifying lava become filled with alkali and silica-bearing waters, which coagulate into a gel. The alkali attacks the iron in the surrounding lava, and bands of the resulting iron hydroxide are created in the gel, which loses water and crystallizes, leaving the bands intact. Many agates, when cut in cross-section, reveal striking forms.

In **riband** agate, the bands appear as straight lines in cross section. Such agate, with white bands alternating with bands of black, brown, or red, is called **onyx**. A **ring** or **eye** agate has concentric circular bands of different colors. A variety having included matter of a green color, embedded in the agate and disposed in filaments and other forms suggestive of vegetable growth, is known as **moss agate**.

Agate is found throughout the world. In the United States it is produced in several western states: Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana are the chief sources of these gemstones.

According to ancient superstition, wearing agate made one agreeable, persuasive, prudent yet bold. It brought God's favor and bestowed the power to vanquish enemies and acquire riches. White agate supposedly cured insomnia.

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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

President: Dave Rogers 260-6344 dkdr9900@cox.net Vice President: Larry Grillett 656-0262 larry_grillett@yahoo.com Secretary: Priscilla Messenger 733-6578 gpmessenger@cox.net Treasurer: Dave Finch 655-6344 lovit@cox.net Parliamentarian & Sergeant at Arms: Greg Cordes Three-Year Board: George Messenger 733-6578 gpmessenger@lvcn.com Two-Year Board: Nancy Tatom 566-1698 One Year Board: Art Lory 648-3816 One Year Board: Rich Kasky 254-1547 rkasky@hotmail.com Polished Slab Editor: Larry Foutz 896-7757 lfoutz@excite.com Webmaster: Ellen Reeves 242-4105 smithreeves@yahoo.com Website Liaison: Carolyn Edmonds 838-0012 c1edmonds@cox.net Federation Director: Bruce Wingate 547-6590 Show Chairman: Glenn Beye 655-0280 beyedad@aol.com	Field Trips: Bruce Wingate 547-6590 Hospitality: Carl and Marcia Richwine 263-4846 Historian: Bruno & Phyllis Syzdek 876-3861 bsyzdek@mac.com Librarian: Refreshments: Ron Antoku 579-4759 Raffle: Inventory: Roger Olsen Sunshine: Charlotte Robinson Publicity: Gary Belton Sharon Rogow Special Events: Glenn Beye 655-0280 beyedad@aol.com Class Coordinator: Jaen Rupprecht 459-8747 jekazrock@aol.com Programs: Marybeth Paladino 255-1647 Shop Forman: Ed Rupprecht 459-8747 jekazrock@aol.com Carl Richwine 263-4846 clrichwine@aol.com Patrick Leary 646-8192 catpurr68@lvcn.com
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The Polished Slab, February 2004

Club Gemstone: Turquoise

Club Colors: Turquoise and Silver

Club Logo: Arrowhead

Club Motto: Rocks-R Us

Annual Dues

Individual: \$15.00

Family: \$20.00

Club / Membership Name Badges are available at \$10 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

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