



THE CONGLOMERATE

MAY, 2020

THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE RENO GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dean Sizemore

Wednesday, May 6, 2020

General Meeting **TBA**

“WEDNESDAY, May 13, 2020

Board Meeting **TBA**

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Editor: At this time, whether RGMS will be able to have a general meeting on May 6 is uncertain. It depends upon what happens between the middle of April (press deadline) and the end of the month. The RGMS President will then have to decide whether to hold the meeting. Check with Facebook for the latest information. Also, when *The Conglomerate* gets any definite schedule information, we will send out an eblast so you can keep informed. So check your email regularly.

ATTENTION

If you have old Fiesta Ware in red, orange or yellow, it may have been fired with uranium and be radioactive. Also, have old pottery such as Caliente, Early California, Harlequin, Poppytrail, and Franciscan checked and tested if you plan to do more than look at it. Some pottery is radioactive while those brands may have a slip covering that can be poisonous if the item is used for table service.

CONGLOMERATE *SUBSCRIPTIONS 2020*

Digital edition: no charge to members

Shortened edition by USPS: \$1 per copy or \$12 annually, in advance

Full edition by USPS: \$1.75/ copy or \$21 annually, in advance

Full edition copies at the meeting: \$2 except to guests. Free to guests.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

The Board minutes are posted on the bulletin board at headquarters monthly. Treasurer's reports are available to any member on request. *Steve Norman* , Secretary; *Robyn Howard*, Treasurer

***Email addresses contain the word *at* rather than the @ symbol to foil efforts of scammers' bots to glean email addresses from online sources.**

RGMS, INC. MISSION STATEMENT

The **mission** of the **Reno Gem and Mineral Society** is to create, develop, and encourage interest in the Earth Sciences and to locate and identify various material through field trips. As a **501C₃** corporation RGMS qualifies for donation write offs of cash and materials. Donation receipts are available at the society's headquarters.

A General Meeting, open to the public, is held usually the first Wednesday of each month at 7 PM at Baldini's Casino, Second Floor, 865 S. Rock Blvd, Sparks, NV. Board meetings are open to all members and are held the second Wednesday of each month at 7 PM at headquarters. Annual membership dues: student: \$25, Individual: \$35, and Family: \$50.

MAY FIELD TRIP REPORT

Rob Kendrick field trip director.

First and foremost I hope everyone is safe, sound, and following the social distance guidelines to stay healthy.

With that being said, the trip to Gabbs is cancelled for May. Rescheduling is a possibility but it won't be until September. See upcoming articles to keep up to date.

Right now the June 6 trip to Lovelock may be a possibility, but I will make that decision next month. The other trip planned is June 28, a fee dig, to Tonopah to dig turquoise at the Otteson mine. So far 26 people have signed up for this trip, and there is still room for a few more. So if you are interested, and for more details on this trip, please email me at rgms.fieldtrips@gmail.com to get your name on this list.

Our other trip to the Black Rock is scheduled for August 14th-16th. Hopefully our state will be back on track by then and this can be a great camping trip. That's all for now. Happy hounding, but more importantly, stay safe!

VOLUNTEERS

Renée Sameuls, Director

Greetings, fellow rockhounds! I hope May finds everyone safe and well. It was a long old April! Although we had to cancel our show this year, I want to acknowledge those who signed up to help out before we were shut down. By mid-March, 75 of you had offered to volunteer for the Jackpot of Gems Show. Thank you all so much for that. In the meantime, Rachel Carrol has stepped up to help out with our Facebook page. Thank you Rachel! You do so much for our society! At this time, we need a Historian, and will need a new Admissions Chairperson for the 2021 show. John Peterson will be stepping down as the Used Equipment Sale Director after this year, so we'll need someone to fill that position, too. Thanks for taking care of that for all these years, John! If you're interested in volunteering for any position, please contact me at rgms.volunteerdirector@gmail.com. Thank you to all of the members who give their time and energy to our society! We couldn't do it without you! I hope to see you soon!

RGMS LIBRARY REPORT

Kathy Boyne, Library Director

Like us all, I am Staying Home for Nevada. When restrictions are lifted, I will be actively involved with the RGMS Library. I am accepting donations to the library. Donations may consist of magazines, journals, books, and/or maps related to RGMS interests which include Nevada History, Jewelry, Beading, Metalwork, Lapidary, Geology, Rocks and Minerals. Contact Kathy via phone or email address. RGMS.librarian@gmail.com.

SUNSHINE

Lori Connel, Sunshine Director

Hello fellow rock hounds? I hope this little note finds you healthy and happy. 2020 has been challenging for us all. During this time of uncertainty, we can now take advantage of being closer with our family and friends, and that includes RGMS members.

I was trying to think of positive things that happen as a result of COVID 19. The first thing that came to mind is:

1. Closeness with our family and friends. We are so busy with work, computers, social media and cell phones, etc., that now spending more quality time with those we love and care about is so rewarding. Actual conversations with your immediate family and friends is so important. For those members whose family live out of town, making the long-distance calls/texts is vital to stay connected. I know it's hard sometimes to pick up that phone and call family or friends to have a chat or ask for some assistance. If you know someone in that situation, please make a call. This call could make a difference and help combat any loneliness. Expressing your caring or friendship can be very powerful for them as well as yourself.
2. If you're able, go rockhounding with friends, but remember social distancing rules.
3. Limit your access to social media and the news.
4. Read or listen only once per day so you are not bombarded with bad news.
5. Take time to appreciate your home. Look in and around your home for that which you are grateful for and share it.
6. Enjoy your coffee breaks and don't talk about the virus.
7. Take a new perspective on cooking; for example, look for the joy in preparing something special.
8. Exercise, sing or play your instrument
9. Read books and/or do some research on something you have had on your list for a while.

These little tips may help us to experience focus, calmness, and satisfaction.

I would also request we keep the following members in our prayers and get-well thoughts for Ike Isaacson, Bobby White, John Boyne, Peter Rivera, Sam Macaluso, and Tamela Germano.

I will leave you with this quote from an unknown author:

Take Each Day One at a Time

One day at a time is enough. Do not look back and grieve over the past, for it is gone and do not be troubled about the future for it has not yet come. Live in the present and make it so beautiful that it will be work remembering.

Lori Connel
775-233-5693
Email-Lori.connel@yahoo.com

VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS (From April, 2020 *The Strata Data*, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society of Fort Wayne IN)

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 virus, our collecting trips are pretty much at a standstill. But travel via the Internet is wide open. SO, for your at-home collecting pleasure, here are some virtual field trips you can take to visit some fabulous museums.

SMITHSONIAN MUSEUM OF
NATURAL HISTORY

[https://naturalhistory.si.edu/
visit/virtual-tour](https://naturalhistory.si.edu/visit/virtual-tour)



DAVID FRIEND HALL, Yale
Peabody Museum of Natural
History

[https://www.rockngem.com/
uncommon-gems-minerals-
shine-in-Virtual-tour/](https://www.rockngem.com/uncommon-gems-minerals-shine-in-Virtual-tour/)



SOUTH DAKOTA SCHOOL OF
MINES & TECHNOLOGY

[https://www.sdsmt.edu/Campus-Life/
The-Campus/Virtual-Tour/O-Harra/](https://www.sdsmt.edu/Campus-Life/The-Campus/Virtual-Tour/O-Harra/)

You can also watch a cool video about
putting a Mosasaur skeleton together.



And, if a virtual field trip isn't your "thing," remember that field trip you went on several years ago? You were too busy to do anything with what you found, so you bagged or boxed the stuff up and put it in the basement or garage. NOW IS THE PERFECT TIME to get that stuff out and go through it. Have a second field trip as you look over each specimen. Make yourself decide what to do with each piece. Perhaps you will discover a really nice specimen! Take a photo of it and share it with your rockhound buddies on the private page of the RGMS FACEBOOK site.

SCHOOL REPORT*Julie Hilsabeck, Director*

If a class must be cancelled, each Instructor or Host will post a cancellation notice to the RGMS Facebook page. If you do not see a cancellation post, the class will be held as scheduled.

Want to take or teach a new class? Have any ideas or suggestions? E-mail **Julie Hilsabeck** jchilsa@yahoo.com or talk to her at the general meeting! All official information regarding scheduling and class details is published in *The Conglomerate*. Register and pay for classes at the general meeting. We accept cash or check made out to RGMS!

Children may register for classes only at the discretion of the teacher. Wear protective shoes or boots to work in the shop—NO open toe shoes, sandals or slippers. **Please Note: To register for classes you must either be a member or have \$1 million of liability insurance naming RGMS as the certificate holder. If you are not a member, unless you present a valid insurance certificate at registration, you must wait until the next general meeting after you join to register for classes. Your insurance is included in the membership fee.**

BE NICE! Each class using headquarters is responsible for leaving the premises clean and tidy. Any tools belonging to RGMS should be put away securely and headquarters locked.

MONDAY OPEN HOUSE

Make your own projects! You must take at least 2 months of lapidary classes before you will be cleared to attend open house and must have your name on file as approved to work on your own in the shop. Speak to the lapidary instructors to be added to the list. Please be sure to follow shop safety rules. **At 8:45 please start clean-up so chaperones can go home.** Supervised by **Daniel Ellis**. 6-9 PM Shop fee \$5/hour.

BEADING AND BEAD WEAVING

Must sign up. Beading in 2020 may be offered quarterly on a **Saturday** from 10-2. Next class will be offered in June, a double Tila bracelet. Can also bring beaded bezel project to finish. Class is taught by **Sue Webb**. \$2.50/hour payable at class or the meeting.

CASTING

Casting is currently on hiatus until an experienced instructor is found. When offered and weather permitting, casting is taught in two classes held on Friday evenings. Classes enroll a maximum of 4-6 students. Sign ups will be taken at the general meeting when classes resume.

KNOTTING AND STRINGING

Learn to string natural stones and beads beading wire, use silk for knotting pearls and craft wire for wire linking as well as stretchy for bracelets. The different tools involved in each project as well as different gauges of craft wire will be explained. You will be supplied with all you need to make bracelets. \$20.00 material fee. First and third Mondays, 7-9 PM. \$5 course fee. Taught by **Laura Jackson**

LAPIDARY

Must sign up. Lapidary is limited to 4 new students, but a **daytime class** is now available. **For shop safety, an absolute limit of eight people may work in the shop at one time.** First time students **must** attend a one-time **shop safety seminar (11/12) on the Tuesday following the general meeting at 10:30 am or 6:30 pm.** Drop-ins are welcome on a first come, first served basis. Registered and pre-paid students always take precedence over drop-ins. Materials for your first two projects are included in your class fee. Evening class taught by **Lloyd Raymond & Barbara Hartman**, 7-9 pm; daytime class taught by **Barbara Hartman** and **Julie Hilsabeck**. 11am–1pm, Tuesdays, \$5/hr.

SILVER FABRICATION

Must sign up. Beginning classes are structured classes. The first two projects are specifically designed to teach you the fundamentals of silver fabrication (making jewelry). Therefore, you will not be able to do other projects until you complete the two projects. RGMS provides tools to use on your first two projects. There is a \$20-\$25 fee for the silver which we provide for the first project. Stones are not included; however, we do have some for sale. For these two projects, **only oval stones** will be used. Suggested size for the first project is 18 x 13mm, and 30 x 32 mm for the second project. The stone size does not have to be the exact size but should be very close. You can purchase silver from the instructors for the second project, or you can use our own. Upon completion of the two projects, if you wish to continue, you will need your own basic set of tools. **The tools that RGMS provides are for new students only.** Before purchasing any tools, talk with your instructors. Thursdays. 6-9 PM Instructors: **Jay Logue**, **Jill Atkins** and **Al Bolshazy**.

WIRE ART

Drop in to work with wire the second and fourth Monday. Classes vary by the month, so check at the general meeting to see what will be offered for April. Brass wire only and tools available to lend in class to new students. Taught by **Jennifer Rhodes** and **Sami Ellis**. 2nd and 4th Monday, .6-8 PM \$2.50/hour (\$5/class), payable in class.

May. Standard Cab Technique incorporating wire weaving in decoration

June Basket weave Technique

Continued, page 6

MAY 2020

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1	2
3	4 ???	5 ???	6 General Meeting???	7 ???	8	9
10 Mothers' Day	11 ???	12 ???	13 ???	14 ???	15	16
17	18 ???	19 ???	20 ???	21 ???	22	23
24/31	25 Memorial Day	26 ???	27 ???	28 ???	29	30

July. Incorporating two Freeform cabs in a Standard Cab Variation

August. Floating Stone Technique (can be cabochon or faceted gem)

September Overlapping Wraps

October Standard Cab Variation using Beads

November Christmas Ornament

MINERAL IDENTIFICATION

Must sign up. See Julie at the meeting. 3rd and 4th Wed. in October. For a small fee, identification kits are available for purchase ahead of the class. Taught by Webb Varnum

LOST WAX CARVING

Cost is \$50/month **Please note this class is on Saturdays and Sundays!** Bring your lunch and beverages. Not offered in summer.

OTHER

Potential for **faceting** classes, **enameling**, and **precious metal clay** if there is enough interest. Speak to Julie at the General Meeting if you are interested.

Contact Julie Hilsabeck to schedule **ALL USES** of the Rock Building. She manages the schedule to avoid scheduling conflicts such as we had in January. Julie can be reached at jchilsa@yahoo.com or 775-848-0569.

RGMS CRAFT FAIR

Theresa Langhans, Coordinator

As many of you are already aware, and others may have heard, in light of current events, we are canceling this upcoming craft fair. We are hoping that everyone is staying home and is healthy!

We are looking forward to our Fall 2020 craft fair: November 13, 14, and 15th.

If you are interested in being a vendor, please contact me.

Please mark your calendars for this event and we hope to see you all there!

Take care.

UPCOMING CFMS SHOWS

See additional information at cfmsinc.org/shows-2/

All California April shows were cancelled, due to Corona Virus. May is still iffy. Check with show contact for current status.

MAY

May 1-3: YUCAIPA, CA

Yucaipa Valley Gem and Mineral Society
Yucaipa Blvd and Adams Street

Contact: grandpasgems@gmail.com

May 2-3; JACKSON, CA **CANCELLED**

Amador County Gem & Mineral Society
Kennedy Mine

Off Hwy 49-88, 12594 Kennedy Mine Rd

Contact: mountaingirl@volcano.net

JUNE

June 1-2: CAMBRIA, CA

San Luis Obispo Gem & Mineral Club
Cambria Veterans Hall

1000 Main Street, Cambria

Contact: Kim Noyes, (805) 610-0603

Email: kim@gmail.com

June 6-7; GLENDORA, CA

Glendora Gem & Mineral Society

Goddard Middle School,

859 E. Sierra Madre Ave.

Contact: 626 963-4638, ybidwell2@aol.com

June 13-14; ESCONDIDO

Palomar Gem and Mineral Club

California Center for the Arts

340 N Escondido Blvd, 92025

Contact: Toni Floyd (425)281-6218, tonifloyd41615@gmail.com

June 23-28; LODI, CA **CANCELLED**

~~81-st CFMS Show & Convention~~

~~California Federation of Mineralogical Societies~~

~~Grape Festival Fairgrounds~~

~~413 E Lockeford Street~~

June 27-28; CULVER CITY, CA **CANCELLED**

Culver City Rock & Mineral Club

Veterans Memorial Auditorium

4117 Overland Ave

Website: <http://culvercityrocks.org/fiesta.htm>

AUGUST TO NOVEMBER

August 15-16; Tehachapi, CA

Tehachapi Valley Gem and Mineral Society

500 East "F" Street

September 12-13; Arroyo Grande, CA

San Luis Obispo Gem and Mineral Club

South County Regional Center

800 West Branch Street

September 26-27; Lancaster, CA

Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club

Antelope Valley Fairgrounds

2551 West Ave H

September 26-27 th ; Lodi, CA

Stockton Lapidary And Mineral Club

Earth Treasures Gems Minerals, & Jewelry Show

Lodi Grape Festival Grounds

413 E Lockeford St

October 10-11; Trona, CA

Searles Lake Gem and Mineral Society

13337 Main Street

October 11: Fallbrook, CA

Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society

123 W Alvarado St

October 16-18; Knoxville TN

AFMS and SFMS Show & Convention

Knoxville Gem and Mineral Society

TBA

October 17-18: SANTA ROSA, CA

Santa Rosa Gem & Mineral Society

1351 Maple Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Contact: 1 707 849-9551, santarosarockshow@hotmail.com

October 24 – 25: SACRAMENTO, CA

Sacramento Gem & Mineral Society

Scottish Rites Center

6151 H Street, Sacramento, CA 95819-2604

Contact: (916) 662-5819,

gemshow@sacramentomineralsociety.org

November 14 – 15: YUBA CITY

Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Society

Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds

442 Franklin Hall, Yuba City, CA 95991

Contact: (916) 677-6696, horita@comcast.net

November 21-22; ANAHEIM

American Opal Society

Business Expo Center, 1960 S. Anaheim Way, Anaheim 92805

Contact: (714) 501-9959, aos.editor02@gmail.com

MINERAL OF THE MONTH

PROUSTITE (Arsenical Ruby Silver)

Webb Varnum



Proustite is found all over the world. The specimen shown here is from Tonopah Nevada. Proustite is a late-forming secondary, hydrothermal silver ore that is formed in an oxygen-rich zone. It has a specific gravity of 5.5 and a brittle fracture. With a massive to trigonal habit, proustite streaks vermillion red but is fairly soft with a 2-2.5 on the Mohs scale. In its crystal form it is a rare stone that can be faceted into brilliant gems, but not only are they too soft to be set in jewelry, also, their tendency to become opaque and a dull black when they are exposed to light means they must be kept in darkness.



2020

Reno Gem & Mineral Society

480 S. Rock Blvd.

Sparks, NV 89431-5547

Conglomerate Editor: Sue Webb

rgms.bulletin@gmail.com

www.renorockhounds.com

Also Facebook, Instagram, Twitter

Officers

President:	Dean Sizemore rgms.president@gmail.com
Vice President:	Steve Smith rgms.vp@gmail.com
Secretary:	Steve Norman rgms.secretary@gmail.com
Asst. Secretary:	Bonnie Poertner
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Gen. Mtg Door Prizes	Laura Jackson, Gary Dalton, Drew Van Hooven
Jr. Rockhounds Advisor	Steve Norman

Instructors

Beading:	Sue Webb
Casting:	open
Knotting & Stringing	Laura Jackson
Lapidary	Barbara Hartman Julie Hilsabeck Lloyd Raymond
Mineral ID	Tamela Germano Webb Varnum
Silver Fabrication	Jill Atkins Al Bolshazy** Jay Logue
Wire Art	Sami Ellis Jennifer Rhodes

** on leave

Commission Directors

ALAA rep	Al Bolshazy
Bulletin:	Sue Webb rgms.bulletin@gmail.com
Assistant Editor	Logan Alexander RGMScontent@gmail.com
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Craft Fairs	Theresa Langhans
Facility	Eric Fendelander
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Field Trips:	Rob Kendrick rgms.fieldtrip@gmail.com
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Jackpot of Gems	Daniel Ellis
Assistant JPOG	Kyle VanBreemen
Librarian:	Kathy Boyne RGMS.librarian@gmail.com
Ass't Librarian	Linda Johnston
LLC Manager	Linda Johnston
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