



THE CONGLOMERATE

JUNE, 2020

THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE RENO GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dean Sizemore

It is the halfway point of the year and boy, has the world changed since our last meeting just 3 months ago! I hope this finds everyone well; from reports I am getting from **Lori Connel**, our Sunshine Director, it sounds like most are doing okay and no cases of the COVID-19 reported among the group. We will still not be having a meeting this month as Baldini's is closed as of the writing of this article.

The Board and I have been communicating with each other as needed and the building is being checked at least weekly. **Eric Fendelander** has been getting work done on the building to get us ready to reopen. **Chuck Jackson** has the new lapidary machines in and should have the wheels on before we reopen. At this time, we are looking into classes for June in small managed groups, if instructors are not available then we will look to start back in July.

If you have any health issues, you can reach out to **Lori** and let her know if you have any need. As someone who has worked through-out this closed period, I can say from my personal experience I think it's scarier sitting home listening to the news that's about half right versus seeing that the world is still going on out here. The company I work for has had 2 cases, both are now back to work and doing fine. Everyone I've met or dealt with is staying back 6' or so and making sure to sanitize their hands after each contact. We will get through this. I was looking up statistics on deaths in America each year, and its quite eye opening to see the number of deaths from car accidents, cancer, and the flu each year. I do not think most of us would ever leave our house if we saw those numbers every day.

We have missed out on the Jackpot of Gems, 3 General Meetings and 3 Board Meetings, the Annual Picnic and the spring 2020 Craft Show. All we can do is see how the rest of the year goes and hope we can open back up soon. Small groups of friends have been getting out on some rock hunting trips—nice to see that. Cannot distance yourself more than being out in the middle of the desert. **Denise** and I have had some great finds by ourselves and out with friends. If you can't do anything else, I recommend a field trip with friends, separate cars and so on, but get out and have fun.

Linda Johnston and her group have been communicating on the Rock Building and our tenants and they are hanging in and getting through this. I have been trying to
Cont. at left

Wednesday, June 3, 2020
General Meeting **Cancelled**

WEDNESDAY, June 10, 2020
Board Meeting **TBA**

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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 **501C(3)** 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 the Rock Building, 480 S. Rock Blvd., Sparks, NV. Annual membership dues: student: \$25, Individual: \$35, and Family: \$50.

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

Pres. Msg, continued

call each RGMS household throughout this, and if I have not spoken to you or left a message, I hope to soon. Stay well, follow the recommendations out there and I really hope to see you all in July.

JUNE FIELD TRIP REPORT

Rob Kendrick field trip director.

Unfortunately the ongoing pandemic dictates our Lovelock trip scheduled for June 6 must be put on hold. I will decide on June 1st on whether to have this field trip. My decision will be based on the governor's decision whether to let the state go to phase 2. Currently, gatherings of 10 or more people are not recommended and I am assuming that there would be more than 10 people attending this trip. So look for a RGMS email on June 1 for more information and to see if this trip will take place.

The other trip is scheduled for Sunday June 28th in Tonopah Nv. for a turquoise fee dig. I have been in contact with the mine owners and as of now this trip is a go. They have a big mine site with several spots, so they said they would be able to spread everyone out and they said that they will be there to help everyone find good material. There are a few more spots available for this trip. If you are interested in attending, email me at rgms.fieldtrips@gmail.com to get your name on the list., I will be sending everyone that is already on the list an email at the beginning of June with more information on our trip. That's all for now. Happy hounding and stay safe! Both pictures are rhyolite from Lovelock.



SUNSHINE

Lori Connel, Sunshine Director

Well, fellow rock hounds, things are starting to look up. Reno as well as the rest of the world is starting to open up a bit under stringent controls. I hope all of you were able to endure this quarantine without too much stress. We often think about our family and friends and hope things are going well for them and offer as much help as we can. Remember, as we open up the city, we must adhere to all of the rules as required. Just one person who violates this could put us all at risk. I know you all will do the right thing. As I said last month, stay close to family and friends, limit your access to social media and the news. Get out and exercise if you can. Take the time to appreciate all life has to offer with some minor restrictions. We have a lot of rock hounding to do in the near future and we need to be healthy to do it.

Again, remember our friends during this time. Keep the prayers going for **Ike Isaacson, Bobby White, Peter Rivera, Sam Macaluso and Tamela Germano**. I have to tell you that I admire Tamela and Sam. They are fighting hard and handling their health situations like troopers. I really believe all of our prayers help all of our members improve. Please say extra prayers and give kudos to their families and/or health care providers and assistants during this time.

Lori Connel

JUNE 2020 JPOG POTLUCK

Denise Sizemore, Social Director

Our RGMS 2020 Summer Picnic Potluck, scheduled this year for June 20, 2020 is being rescheduled to next year. That means there won't be a Summer get-together for us in 2020, though our permits and payments for this year are being honored for 2021. The date for next year will be in June, and you will have plenty of advanced notice to set aside the date to make the RGMS 2021 Summer Picnic Potluck the biggest and best one yet!

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.

FLAT LAPPING WITHOUT A LAPPING MACHINE

Virgil Stine, Osage Hills Gems Rockpile How To Book,

The process of flat lapping is so simple that anyone can do it even if you don't have a flat lap. So, go to it, and polish the bookends you want, or that clock face. Just get a piece of aluminum about 12 or 14 inches square.[ED: Repurpose an old cookie sheet, perhaps] Place it on a flat surface. Take a teaspoon of 120 grit (or even 90 grit if you have saw marks on the slab), mix with Vaseline or water. (I like Vaseline because it holds the grit better.)

Now take your slab to be polished or sanded and dop a piece of wood to it so that you have a handle and can hold [the slab] down on the grit. Just keep twisting and pushing it over and around on the grit. Be sure that your grit is always under your slab. Don't run it over the dry aluminum. Soon the aluminum will be well covered. Spread out the grit as you move the stone over it, in any movement pattern you like. Be sure to add more grit so it doesn't get too fine. Keep at it until all saw marks are well sanded off.

Next, wash the stone well and the aluminum too, so that there is no grit left. The next step is to mix 220 grit as before and start sanding all over for a finer finish. Then wash everything again well and mix 400 grit, and start sanding again. Finally, mix 600 grit and sand again. Your slab should now be ready for polishing.

For polishing, obtain a piece of leather. You can get it at some shoe repair shop or leather shop. Get a square about 12 x 12 inches. Stick it to a board and keep it for polishing only. Don't tack it down because the tacks can scratch your stone. Put your favorite polish mix all over the leather. Start polishing it as you sanded it. When polished, wash well and you will have a lovely shine. This is the oldest way to do it before we had motors. It takes time and work, but a little time each night will do the trick.

via *The Rockpile*, March 2020

ROCK BUILDING REPORT JUNE 2020

Linda Johnston, LLC Manager



This is the building that is owned by The Reno Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. At the corner of Rock and Pittman in Sparks, our unit at 480 South Rock Blvd. has been headquarters to RGMS for over 30 years.

The Society was fortunate to purchase the building in November 2017. Since then, many renovations have been made. Although RGMS is now housed rent-free, the income from five other tenants has been paying for the improvements, and is now producing future funding for our Society.

COVID update: Our tenants are doing their best to make timely rent payments, and we're working with them to stay current. Overall, our expenses are up to date and the building is still operating profitably. We've decided to delay the exterior painting until the pandemic crisis is past, and conserve our savings as the prudent measure.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Linda Johnston at or email

RGMS LIBRARY REPORT

Kathy Boyne, Library Director

Like us all, I am still 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.

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** 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. Beginning Beading in 2020 may be offered quarterly on a **Saturday** from 10-2. Class is taught by **Sue Webb**. **Projects for July: Peyote Stitch, August: Ladder Stitch; September: Chevron stitch; October: Russian spiral; Kits will be available at cost for those who sign up.** \$2.50/hour (\$10/class) 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 up 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 ()** 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.

July. Incorporating two Freeform cabs in a Standard Cab Variation

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

UPCOMING CFMS SHOWS

See additional information at [cfmsinc.org/shows-2/](https://www.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.

JUNE**June 1-2: CAMBRIA, CA — CANCELLED**

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

~~81st 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
(661) 972-1117

September 12-13; Arroyo Grande, CA

San Luis Obispo Gem and Mineral Club
South County Regional Center
800 West Branch Street
show@slogem.org

September 26-27; Lancaster, CA

Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds
2551 West Ave H
Allison McClung; 661-839-7403

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
<http://stocktonlapidary.org>

September 26-27; LONG BEACH

Long Beach Mineral & Gem Society
Long Beach Expo Arts Center
4321 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach 90807
Carol Kron and Karin Alvarez, (562) 577-9044

October 10-11; Trona, CA

Searles Lake Gem and Mineral Society
13337 Main Street
slgms@iwvisp.com

October 10-11; GRASS VALLEY, CA

Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society
Nevada County Fairgrounds,
11228 McCourtney Road, Grass Valley, CA 95945
<http://www.ncgms.org>

October 11: Fallbrook, CA

Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society
123 W Alvarado St
Michelle Shearer; 760-805-2184

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 7 – 8; RIDGECREST, CA

Indian Wells Gem and Mineral Society Inc.
Desert Empire Fairgrounds, 520 S. Richmond Rd., Ridgecrest
Hours: Sat & Sun 9 am – 5 pm
Contact: (760) 375-7905, jfrocks@dslextreme.com

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

Note: At deadline it is still uncertain whether fall shows can proceed. **If the listing does not show a cancellation, it is best to check with the show chairs to be sure it is still being held. See the CFMS Website for additional information.—**
<https://www.cfmsinc.org/shows-2/>

EDITOR'S CORNER

Sue Webb, Editor

If you noticed that there is no Membership Report, no Board Meeting report, or no Program report, you probably figured that those were not included because the Covid-19 closures resulted in those having no information to report. Each will be back just as soon as RGMS is back up operating at full capacity. Thank you all for your patience in this time and please continue to stay safe.