



The Conglomerate

The Monthly Newsletter of the Reno
Gem and Mineral Society

General Meeting

Wed. Aug. 4, 7pm

Baldini's Second Floor

Board Meeting

Wed. Aug. 11, 7 pm

Rock Building, 480 S. Rock,
Sparks

RGMS 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.

Conglomerate Subscriptions 2021

Digital edition: free to members
Short (b & W) edition by USPS: \$1 per copy or \$12 annually, in advance.

Full color edition by USPS: \$2 copy or \$21 annually, in advance

Full edition (b & w) copies at the meeting: \$2 except to guests. Free to guests.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dean Sizemore

I hope everyone is doing well with the hot temperatures we have had lately. Hard to believe we are one month away from Jackpot of Gems; we are very excited to get this going. We are at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center this year for the first time. We are at our maximum for vendors which is so exciting after missing last year. There are still some opportunities to volunteer in Security, Silent Auction, Wheel of Fortune and so on. We will have the sign-up sheets at the August Meeting at Baldini's and need everyone's help to make this successful.

Speaking of Baldini's, we are thrilled to finally be back in our meeting room there and are having a Show and Tell for our first meeting ~~back there~~. There will be tables set up around the room for our members to display rocks they have found on field trips or items they made. We love to see the finds our members have made.

46 Members attended our July General Meeting at the Rock Building plus another 16 on Zoom. It was nice to have an in-person General Meeting after a year and four months, ~~we had~~ Jon Johnson dropped in from Peterson Mountain and went over the future event that is coming up in the Fall. He explained what happened with the trip that was scheduled. The Peterson Mountain folks are as excited to have us up there as we are to go there. Reminder to all members: Peterson is an all-claimed area and it is not open to anyone except during the trip we are privileged to have there. Please follow the law and do not get caught up there or on any other claim.

We had a great trip to Austin in July, found many Geodes and had a member take us to his personal claim out there which had blue lace agate, some seams with great red striping

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Membership
Janet Longueira, Director

RGMS would like to welcome, and welcome back, these members who joined in July:
Also see p. 14 for late additions to new members list

Jim & Vicky	Fendelander
Pam	Husted
Nanette & Philip	Mentz
Rachel	Saalsaa
Joseph	Stewart (welcome back)
Tori	Sundheim
Lora	Tedesco
Jackie & Ryan	Thym
Wes	Waltenspiel (welcome back)
Philipp & Elena	Weirauch
CD	Wells

Tumbling Obsidian
Janet Longueira,

I like to tumble rocks! In the RGMS Society, since my very recent joining, it seems that most folks like to form their “jewels” manually by using a cabbing machine. I like to do that too, but tumbling is a great option. The difference, in case you are not familiar, is that by forming rocks manually, you decide the shape you want to make. Tumbling does not give you a true option since the machine does it for you, (I like that it does the work), but it also produces beautiful, polished rocks.

Recently I tumbled obsidian Apache tears, and they came out beautifully! For some reason I decided to search on the internet for how to tumble obsidian. I knew that it was supposed to be tumbled alone. Typically, I throw everything into my barrels and let the process begin. And occasionally a small obsidian piece will be discovered later in that batch without harm as far as I know.

My internet search took me to a blog of two older gentleman who had a special “recipe”. When I tumble rocks, I follow the same 5-step process every time. Their recipe changed up two of the steps, #3 and #4 with no step #5. Here is the process, and hopefully you can see the beautiful results. They look like they are velvet, still wet, and everyone I’ve shown them to just wants to run their hands through them. I tell them, “Go ahead, they’re dry”!

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2021 RGMS/VENDOR POTLUCK

Denise Sizemore, Social Director

Come join us in welcoming this year’s Jackpot of Gems Vendors to Reno Gem and Mineral Society’s version of a good ole’ fashion potluck.

Mingling hour happens at the Rock Building on Friday, September 10th from 5-6, and the potluck starts at 6pm.

We need Snacks, Finger foods, Salads, Main Dishes, and Desserts. We would love to have some of your homemade goodies, but store bought, and your good company works for me.

Please email Denise at: rgms.socialdirector@gmail.com to let me know what you are bringing and how many will be attending, so I can have the room set up appropriately.

Thank you,

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**Jackpot of Gems Silent Auction
Eric Fendelander, Silent Auction Chair**

I need help!

The rocks and minerals we sell in the Silent Auction at the Jackpot of Gems needs to be sorted, identified and bagged. I have over 250 5-gallon buckets of material in my backyard.

Due to the wind and rain, some buckets are full of water and algae. My plan is to separate these buckets, spread onto the driveway, power wash and let dry. Then, the next day have a small group of members bag the smaller specimens and pull out some more wet buckets for me to power wash.

I have a schedule that I hope beats the heat and minimizes any disruption of your plans:.

Saturday,	July 24	8am—10am
Tuesday	July 27	7am—9am
Saturday	July 31	8am—10am
Monday,	Aug. 2	7am—9am
Friday,	Aug. 6	7am—9am

I need 8 volunteers per session, with at least 4 of you with Nevada rock identification skills. So, even if you are still learning about our great variety of minerals, you can still be a vital part of this show preparation.

Five-gallon buckets will be loaded into the tractor bucket and moved to the concrete driveway, so minimal lifting is needed. As we sort and bag the rocks, we will put tops on the buckets and load onto the flatbed trailer.

I am hoping to break the \$15,000 record set 2 years ago and make \$20,000 in revenue for the club. This money will pay the bills and allow our society to move into a larger and better equipped shop, larger class space, library, office, and meeting areas.

I want to thank you in advance for your help.. Please e-mail me @ ericcf@netzero.net to reserve your time and date.

**Jackpot of Gems Show
Daniel Ellis, Show Chair**

The Reno Convention is ready for the show on September 11th and 12th. So please mark you calendars so you will have some time to work our show. We will need all the help we can muster.

We will be packing up the goods for the show on Wednesday the 8th starting at 5PM at our Rock Building for set up at 7:30 AM on the 10th.

We will have the sign-up sheets at the August meeting. So stop by and sign up for your fun help time at the show. On Wednesday after the truck is packed, we'll also need help setting up the Rock Building for the dinner on Friday Night.

If you can pitch in and help run some of our tables at the show, please email me with what you would like to do as we have some openings for help. It's less than a week till our first meeting at Baldini's in over a year. Please come and have some fun.

Also anybody who would like to make a donation to the raffle can drop it by the Rock Building any Monday after 12:00 till 8:00. Please make sure you tell us it is for the Show. Good way to show off your talents and help the Society make some money at the same time.

Thanks!

**President's Letter (continued)
Dean Sizemore**

lift it. Our next trip is the end of August to Black Rock for thunder eggs and Christmas Tree Agate. Eric, who has led field trips for us this year, has to step back for a while so we are in need of a Field Trip Director. We have a trip scheduled to McDermott in September and that will be the last on the current schedule. If interested, please contact me at the meeting or via email rgms.president@gmail.com. We are so grateful to Eric for the successful trips we have had this year.

Monday night open houses have been rocking (pun intended). There are so many members, both new and old, hanging out, greeting guests, running the saws and working on our new cabbing machines. Some are sharing their finds from field trips. There's room for more, so please stop by and let us help you with your projects, slab rocks for you, or just check out the building with our new equipment in the shop and the new classroom setup. Our current membership count is the highest it has ever been. We are very proud of this, and I am so proud of the Board members who kept everything running this last year--field trips, zoom meetings and open house. It is their hard work that allowed for the growth we have had when many groups are struggling to keep going and get started again.

In September, along with Jackpot of Gems, we have a joint event with GPAA in Rye Patch at their annual Nugget Shoot. It is a busy day with typically over 600 people metal detecting for some amazing prizes. The kids attending get free metal detectors to find treasures hidden throughout the area--hot wheels, jewelry, and tokens for prizes. Please come join us; I will have more detailed information in September's *Conglomerate*.

If you have not checked out the new Website (<http://www.renogms.org>) please do. All the information you need to know about most events, classes and field trips is on the site, and many more things are also on our Facebook page. Membership forms are also available for download from the Website. Keep checking back because the site is continuously evolving as we finish developing it.

Denise and I wish everyone a great August and hope to see you on the 4^h at 7PM.

Jackpot of Gems Exhibits

Theresa Langhans, Exhibits Chair

I want to thank those of you who have already signed up to exhibit at our annual show! **We still need about 15 more cases, so if you haven't already, would you please consider putting in an exhibit?**

We have 44 exhibits to fill for this Show. I encourage you to complete the attached form to reserve your case!!

If you need assistance, I am happy to help. If you feel that you may not have enough material to fill a 4' X 2' case, then you can share space with another individual. Please note that someone doesn't have to be a member to exhibit. Our exhibits are generally related to our hobby, but individuals have put in some great cases of antique glassware, stamp collections, etc.... It truly is a lot of fun to exhibit your collection(s)!! And how rewarding it is to hear the comments of appreciation from individuals who come to the show and see your work! You may win our people's choice award where favorite cases are voted on by the general public and receive awards.

The Austin Field Trip
Eric Fendelander, Field Trip Director

With 26 diggers filling all the available hotel rooms in Austin we scored despite the heat. At the dig site, about 600 ft above the valley floor, it was about 95 degrees with a near constant 5 mph breeze. Our President, Dean Sizemore, found a great rock full of Botryoidal blue bumps about 1 foot flats on both sides. From what we can see when he opens it, the blue looks to be amazing. On Sunday Eric Lundin offered to take us to his claim a few miles away. WOW! The 2 foot geode he found is amazing. It took 4 of us to get it into the back of my four-wheeler. Then, Brian Villancourt and I rolled it into my truck for the trip home. It is now on the ground in my backyard. From now on all moves will be by tractor and straps. I estimate it is over 250 pounds and 2 feet round. Everyone was amazed at the red and blue ribbons shooting through the agates and geodes. Maybe later this Fall when the weather cools below 75 degrees we may forage out there again, with Eric's permission, of course. On the nature side, a herd of antelope, a few deer, and a pack of coyotes met us Sunday morning. You never know who's going to show up at our digs.

Our next outing is at the end of August, and hopefully it will be cooler. It is our Black Rock desert trip, from August 27 to the 30th. As time gets closer I will put out maps and go on a pre-scouting trip to put up signs and scope out the condition of the roads. Keep you posted!

Austin Field Trip Photos
Steve Smith, Photographer



Board meeting notes for July 14, 2021
Steve Norman, Secretary

President **Dean Sizemore** called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and Steve Smith led the pledge of allegiance.

Secretary's Report: **Steve Norman** has board meeting notes for anyone needing a copy and Board members have a copy via email. Corrections may be emailed.

Treasurer's Report: **Robyn Howard** submitted financial reports for May and June 2021 a combined Profit and loss statement. Robin reviewed each section of the report. Contact Robyn for any questions. **Steve Smith** made a motion to accept the treasurer's report **Virginia Keeley** seconded and the motion carried. The next budget meeting will be July 19th after the Show Meeting that starts at 6:00. Zoom meeting will be available. Another online auction is planned where donations are being accepted or for sellers of products, the Society receives 10 percent of the selling price.

President: Dean Sizemore announced the need for an assistant for the CMF (Calif. Mineral Federation) to assist **Jennifer Rhodes**. There is also a need for a volunteer coordinator and the Show needs someone who will work with children at the Wheel of Fortune. Monday Open House is being expanded starting at 11:00 AM and running all day until 9:00 PM. If anyone can come in and give **Julie Hilsabeck** a hand during the day would be wonderful.. Dean would like all job descriptions to include contact information of people and businesses and passwords and other information that would be helpful to anyone taking over the position. Vice President Steve Smith outlined how the Society has become more organized and effective over the years by keeping the motto of working to do things better. The attitude works, and Steve encouraged all board members to keep trying to improve. In this vein a new policy on travel was explained on how to get permission and then get paid back for expenses.

Website: **Tom Nichols** is gaining Social Media contacts. There is a Public Relations position open for anyone familiar with Facebook and social media. **Sven Sanders** noted over a 1000 contacts with Facebook and RGMS website.

Social: **Denise Sizemore** is working on a date for the Christmas party. Meanwhile the Potluck is the next big event. It takes place on Friday, September 10 the day the Show is set up. Starting at 5:30 with dinner served at 6:00 PM at the Rock Building. Contact Denise to sign up it is a fun social event with our honored guests (Show Vendors). Denise email: wraptide-signs@gmail.com.

The Rock Building (TRB): **Linda Johnston** is pursuing bids for filling in cracks in the payment.

Building and Field Trips: **Eric Fendlander** has some medical issues and is stepping back with limited duties until this get resolved. We all hope and pray that this will be resolved and cured.

Conglomerate: Director **Sue Webb** asks for articles on anything Society related: fieldtrips, shop, equipment, tools, safety issues, or the experience of being outdoors in nature. You name it. Sue is a great editor if you need any help (former teacher/professor).

Show: **Dan Ellis** has a need for volunteers to help out at the show. Please sign up at the shop, meetings, classes or field trips. The Show is a yearly event and needs your help for an hour or

July Board Notes continued

two Volunteers get into the Show for free plus earning T-Shirt. Wednesday, September 8 at 6:00 PM the U-Haul truck will be loaded with Show materials. There is a need for about a dozen people. Please put this on your calendar to help out. Consider a donation to the Raffle; that can be a big help in selling tickets. Dan has 21 vendors lined up for the event on September 11 and 12, 2021 at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center.

Classes: Director Julie Hilsabeck has a busy schedule of classes. See *Conglomerate* for details. Julie signs people up on a first come basis but also has an active waiting list. Keep trying, and she will get you enrolled in one of the best shops in Nevada. Julie and Robyn are working on a Pay Card that can be bought and used up over time. This idea will help with cash problems until debit and credit cards can be used.

Raffle: **Laura Jackson** report \$145 for the raffle at the general meeting.

Membership: **Janet Longueira** reports 252 memberships with 468 members. This might be a record for the most members in the Society.

Shop: **Chuck Jackson** working with new donated saw.

Social: Keep **Sam Macaluso, Fred and Tammy Pierce** and **Eric Fendelander** in your thoughts and prayers.

President: Dean Sizemore reports Craft Fair at old Town Mall going from November 5-7. August 4 is the scheduled date for the next General Meeting at Baldini's Sport Casino. There will be no speaker, Instead Steve Smith is planning a Show and Tell. Bring something rock, gem, jewelry or mineral related and share with Society members and visitors. Meeting starts at 7:00 PM. Tom moved the meeting be adjourned, Denise seconded motion carried: 7:42 PM

Important Messages

Hilary Voss reminds us that we're skipping an auction in July, but August will be a fantastic auction full of rocks, fossils, equipment, and some fun miscellaneous items. It runs from 9am August 20 to August 20 at 1pm and can be found at https://www.32auctions.com/rgms_august2021. Also, pickup is on Saturday, August 21 at the Rock Building between 11 and 2. We will have lots of items for sale that weren't in the auction.

Dean Sizemore enters yet another plea for folks to step up to fill the following positions that have become vacant: historian, public relations, volunteer coordinator. Feel free to email Dean for information about the various duties attached to any position you are interested in. Volunteering is a fantastic way to get lots more out of your RGMS membership.

Theresa Langhans reminds everyone to sign up to exhibit at the Jackpot of Gems and to be a vendor at the Fall Craft Fair. Applications are attached to the end of the Conglomerate. Fill one out and bring it to the meeting at Baldini's on August 4th.

Steve Smith (VP) announces that this will be our first big gathering in Many, Many Months. Please join us for our General meeting and Show and Tell. Members are invited to bring Items that they have found on Field trips or have created in our Lapadary Shop and Jewelry classroom. Tables are set up and waiting for you to show off your treasures to fellow members. We will also have our fund raiser raffle with great items to be won. I look forward to seeing you all at Baldini's casino.

Black Rock Desert Field Trip
Terry Gust for new field trip leaders

Hi RGMS Rock-hounds!

Rob Kendrick and **Jim Welker** will be leading the Black Rock Desert Field Trip at the end of August. They'll arrive and set up camp on Thursday, the 26th, and depart on Sunday, the 29th.

Friday - Areas around camp. Material to collect includes petrified wood, nodules, and jasper

Friday - 8:00 am sharp - Short drive to collect tufa

Saturday - 7:00 am sharp - There will be 2 groups going out. One will go to the geode mine, where the Black Rock Geodes are found. The other will be going to Christmas Tree, where agate, jasper, chalcedony (many with botryoidal formations) and nodules can be found.

Saturday Pot Luck - 7:00 pm

- 4-wheel drive and high clearance vehicles are needed to access these sites
- both locations have hard rock mining, light digging and surface collecting so bring appropriate gear
- bring the usual supplies for summer desert rockhounding. water, sun screen, gloves, sturdy boots, tools, 1st aid kit, etc.
- -we'll be gone all day Saturday, so bring a lunch
- -as usual, keep an eye out for snakes and scorpions

There will be camp site maps available and samples of material collected at these sites at the LIVE RGMS General Meeting at Baldini's, Wednesday, August 4 at 7:00.

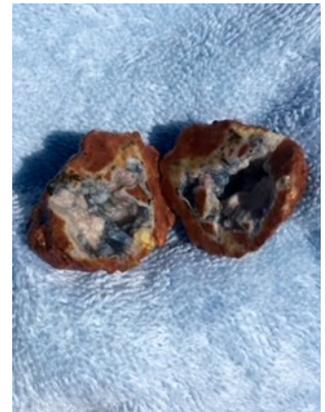
We hope to see you there. Happy Hounding!



Christmas Tree site photos: Terry Gust



Geode Mine, camp, playa and tufa photos: Terry Gust



Treasure Maps!!
Tricia Vaillancourt, Librarian

Rather, whether it's Silver, Gold, Turquoise or Fluorspar you are craving, we have a map for that!

We have a completely wonderful Maps Section in our Reno Gem and Mineral Society Library. Most of them focus on Nevada. There are lots on California too, also Arizona, Colorado, Oregon, Texas, and Utah. Then Countries, North America, South America, and New Zealand. After being filed by states, the maps break down into counties for easier retrieval. We currently have over 150 maps currently.

Sources include all the best places including:

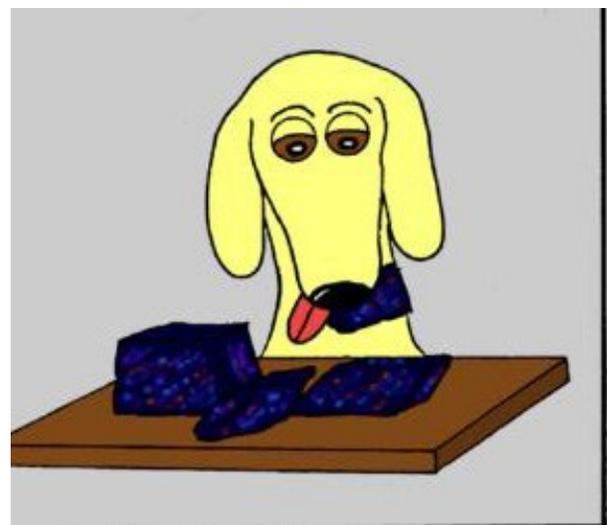
- US Department of the Interior Geological Survey
- Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology
- State of Nevada, Division of Minerals
- California Division of Mines and Geology
- Colorado School of Mines
- Utah Geological and Mineral Survey

Before your next Rockhounding Trip, stop in and look over the maps for the area you are headed to and understand more about your camping spot and what you may be able to see and find while you are out there on the trail!

Maps are available to be studied during regular Library hours. They are not available for check out. We have great map tables. You must be a current RGMS Member to use the library. Doors are open Mondays during both Open Houses (11-1am. and 7-8:30pm.) Also, during the Board Meeting on the second Wednesday of the month, 7-8:30pm.

August Online Auction
Hiary Voss & Robyn Howard

We've skipped an auction in July, but August will be a fantastic auction full of rocks, fossils, equipment, and some fun miscellaneous items. It runs from 9am August 16 to August 20 at 1pm and can be found at https://www.32auctions.com/rgms_august2021. Also, pickup is on Saturday, August 21 at the Rock Building between 11 and 2. We will have lots of items for sale that weren't in the auction.



A mineral collector's best friend:
a Labradorite Retriever

Cartoon via Ventura Rockhound Rambling

SCHOOL REPORT
Julie Hilsabeck, School Director

You must be a member of the Reno Gem & Mineral Society to be eligible to attend any of the classes listed below. Membership is easy; simply go our website at <https://www.renogms.org/>, click on the membership page, download and print out a copy of the membership form. Bring the completed form plus your membership fee to the first class session. All classes are held at the Rock Building at 480 S. Rock Blvd, Sparks, NV.

Open House—Mondays from 11am to 9pm. The Rock Building will be open, the shop and the library available to members. Prospective members may arrive and request a tour of the building and explanation of the RGMS mission. Regular rates for shop use apply. Various members host the open house during the day. See Julie to volunteer.

Beginning Lapidary--NEW students only--**Maximum of 4 students per class--\$40.00 Tuesdays** 1:00 pm to 3:00pm (afternoon class) and 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm (evening class). Mandatory Safety class begins 30 minutes prior to the first class period. No open toed shoes/sandals, long hair must be tied back from the face, and ear protection is suggested. All supplies, slabs, equipment is provided for your first month. You will complete 3 projects during your class. Email rgms.schooldirector@gmail.com as soon as possible to reserve your place. Advanced registration is required. Registration is on a first come, first served basis. Afternoon Instructor is Barbara Hartman, Evening Instructor is Julie Hilsabeck.

Beginning Silver Fabrication—NEW Students only--Maximum of 4 students. **Thursday--6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.** Cost is \$60. Learn the basics of setting cabochons in silver settings. All equipment is provided. May be a kit fee. Contact the Instructor, Chuck Jackson, at rgms.schooldirector@gmail.com to register. Registration is on a first come, first served basis.

Advanced Silver Fabrication Thursday--6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Cost is \$60.00--Experienced students only--Maximum of 4 students. Contact the Instructor, Jill Atkins, at rgms.schooldirector@gmail.com to register for class.

Bead Weaving with Sue Webb--Class will be held on August 22, 2021 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Contact Sue at rgms.bulletin@gmail.com to register and to get a materials list. August's project will be a beaded wire ammonite. All material should be available locally.

Introduction to Slab Saw Use--NEW students only--Maximum of 4 students - \$40.00 **Tuesdays--7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.** Instructor is Chuck Jackson. Learn how to use the slab saws to get the best slabs from your rocks. Contact Chuck at rgms.shopdirector@gmail.com with questions and Julie at rgms.schooldirector@gmail.com to register.

SCHOOL REPORT
continued

Basic Beading--No class size limit--new and returning students welcome--\$10.00; Kit fee \$20.00. Tuesday--August 10, 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Introduction to the basics of beading and associated tools and supplies. Instructor is Laura Jackson. No advanced registration is required. Contact Laura at nvjackson@aol.com with questions.

Wire Linking--No class size limit--new and returning students welcome --\$10.00; Kit fee \$20.00. Tuesday, August 17, 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Introduction to the basics of wire linking and associated tools and supplies. Instructor is Laura Jackson. No advanced registration is required. Contact Laura at nvjackson@aol.com with questions.

Pearl Knotting--No class size limit--new and returning students welcome--\$10.00; Kit fee \$20.00. Tuesday, August 24, 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Introduction to the basics of pearl knotting and associated tools and supplies. Instructor is Laura Jackson. No advanced registration is required. Contact Laura at nvjackson@aol.com with questions.

Jewelry Repair--No class size limit--new and returning students welcome--\$10.00; Kit fee \$20.00. Tuesday, August 31, 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Introduction to the basics of beginning jewelry repair and associated tools and supplies. Bring your pieces of jewelry that need repair and learn how to get them back in to wearable condition. Instructor is Laura Jackson. No advanced registration is required. Contact Laura at nvjackson@aol.com with questions.

Additional classes are also offered on an occasional basis:

Mineral Identification—Offered quarterly or when demand is sufficient. Taught by Webb Var-num.

Lost Wax Casting—offered over an entire weekend, both Sat and Sun. Not offered in summer due to heat.

Other classes such as **faceting, beginning enameling, precious metal clay, or chain maille** can be offered when there is interest and when an instructor can be found. If you are interested in taking one of these or some other discipline our mission covers, let Julie know. If you can teach one of these or know someone who can, also let her know. Teachers serve on a volunteer basis.

August 2021

Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2	3	4 General Meeting 7pm Baldini's	5 Beg. & Adv Silver Fabrication 6pm - 9pm	6	7
8	9 Open House 11am -9 pm	10 Beg. Lapidary (4 New only) 1-3; 7-9pm Basic Beading 7-9 pm	11 Board Meeting 7-9pm Rock Building	12 Beg. & Adv Silver Fabrication 6pm - 9pm	13	14
15	16 Open House 11am -9 pm Online Auction opens 9 am	17 Beg. Lapidary (4 New only) 1-3; 7-9pm Wire Linking 7-9pm 7-9pm	18	19 Beg. & Adv Silver Fabrication 6pm - 9pm	20 Online Auction Closes 1 pm	21 Auction Pick Up at Rock Building 11am—2pm
22 Bead Weaving 10am-2pm Beaded wire ammonite	23 Open House 11am -9 pm.	24 Beg Lapidary (4 New only) 1-3; 7-9pm Pearl Knotting 7-9pm	25	26 Beg. & Adv Silver Fabrication 6pm - 9pm Black Rock Field Trip	27 Black Rock Field Trip	28 Black Rock Field Trip
29 Black Rock Field Trip	30 Open House 11am -9 pm	31 Beg Lapidary (4 New only) 1-3; 7-9pm Basic Jewelry Repair 7-9pm				

Youthful Gems
Steve Norman, Educational Outreach

There is a new program coming to Reno Gem and Mineral Society. It is for our Youthful Gems! Yes, it is for children from 6-18 who want to learn about rocks, minerals, Gems and all things geology and earth science. There are 20 different badges that students can earn. It is promised to be fun but also educational. Each badge has a theme and **Sue Webb**, our Conglomerate Editor, has said she will teach one unit. Are there any other volunteers to teach a unit? The information is already sorted out by the American Federation where it has been tested and reviewed. We need some "Badge Masters" volunteers to give a class to some youngsters.

The next part of getting this Youthful Gems program off to a flying start is some children starting at 6 years old all the way up to 18 year old kids. The schedule is open so pick the day of the week and times, and with consensus, we will come to an acceptable arrangement for everyone, we hope. Classes can be one or two hours long depending on what families want. The established dates are arranged over two sessions throughout the year. Session One is August, September, October and November. Session Two is February, March, April and May. Enroll your children or youngsters now by contacting Steve Norman: at snorm11@hotmail.com or call at 775.560.4782 for any questions.

The classes are all free but we would ask for a healthy snack and revolving assistance from parents once or twice a session. **Steve Norman** is a retired Elementary School teacher with Washoe County for over 20 years. The education team has provided school-age children in local schools with rock and mineral information for about ten years.

More New Members

Penny Babe
Donna Ballard (TMCC)
John Ballard (TMCC)
Nina Breda (TMCC)
Terry & Debbie Bush
Tracy Doren (TMCC)
Joe & Cynthia Fleiner
Scott & Darlyn Foster
Dyanne Foster
Ruth Gault (TMCC)
Shirley Handlin
Christine Henningsson
Deborah Hug (TMCC)
Warren James
Ciara Robillard (TMCC)
Zach & Karen Simas
Joyce Waters

The Rules and Etiquette of Rockhounding
Hilary Loupee and Kayla Wieczorek

With all of the fun we've been having and the fantastic surge in new members, I thought it might be useful to go over some of the rules and etiquette for being in the field. This might also benefit some of us experienced rockhounds who may have forgotten some of the BLM rules.

First of all, some basics: We can't go gathering on someone's private property. Would you be okay with a rock club showing up in your backyard and digging holes and removing rocks? We also can't collect on a claim. It belongs to someone and the rocks and minerals on that claim belong to them. It is a federal crime to take anything and punishable by fines and jail time. It is very much like breaking into someone's home and taking possessions.

Thankfully, most unclaimed BLM land is fine for us to collect on. Some exceptions are National Parks, Indian Reservations, wildlife refuges, and military reservations. This definitely applies in Nevada. The club's field trips are great because we will do the leg work in making sure we are collecting in an area where collecting is allowed.

Some other BLM rules include not using heavy equipment or explosives. Collecting should be limited to 25 lbs per day plus one piece and less than 250 lbs per year. (I know we are all groaning at this one and I am just restating the official rules).

Now, for some etiquette. We all want to have a good time out there! We have to show each other respect and the golden rule applies. Make sure you are prepared for the trip. This means having enough water, food, tools, gas, sunscreen, appropriate clothing, and whatever else you need to take care of yourself. We are a great group of people and really take care of each other out there, but sometimes we are in harsh conditions and we are all rationing what we have brought into the field. Yes, some of us have bigger and better tools and we might be happy to share, but please ask first! And don't separate from your stuff as you will be surprised how hard it is to find your way back to it.

It is a big desert, so spread out when you can and don't take over someone's spot unless you are 100% sure they are done with it. Especially do not move their tools, backpack, or bucket to dig in their spot. They left them there for a reason! Maybe they discovered a beautiful vein of gold, but needed to take a 10 minute water break. They found that vein and it is not okay for you to come take it after their hard work of finding it and exposing it! Be very careful about taking rocks from what is clearly a pile of nice material or a beautiful boulder, especially if it is behind someone digging. It only takes a second to ask! Also, when we are in spots with limited access, like we were in Yerington on the side of the hill, try to give others some time to get in there and have a chance at digging something.

Be courteous when digging. Try not to kick up dirt or rocks at your fellow rockhounds. Sounds simple, but it is easily done when you get excited and are going after a big rock in a small space. Also, be particularly careful on hills and tailings piles not to cause dirt and rocks to roll down into someone. A boulder to the shin hurts! Also, when knocking down dirt, be cognizant of other people's equipment in your area. A lot of rock hammers have been lost under piles of dirt in the field and they aren't cheap!

The Rules and Etiquette of Rockhounding

Hilary Loupee and Kayla Wiczorek

For some digs, we have a meeting location. Meet there on time, check in on the sign-up sheet, and grab a name tag so we can all greet you out there. We are good about posting road conditions, so make sure your vehicle can handle it. A lot of us are happy to give you a ride out to the site if necessary. If you need a ride, make sure to take everything you will need for the entire day. Follow the leader to the site. When travelling out to the site, always make sure you are watching for the person behind you and that they can see you and any turns that the caravan takes. Don't follow too closely, especially on dirt roads, as you will probably eat dust and also put unnecessary pressure on the person in front of you, who might not be so comfortable on a rocky dirt road.

Now that we've had a few amazing members and friends of members share their claims for special organized trips, we need to remember that they are still claims. You were given permission to visit that claim for that day. You do not have permission to go back and visit it on your own. You are breaking the law and can be prosecuted if you do!

And finally, for those of us who have wonderful secret spots or claims, maybe you could invite some people out to your site for a day trip. Others would be happy to trade locations privately. That is what this group is about! Sharing our love of rocks and exploring the desert. I have made some amazing friends this year by sharing my secret sites in the desert and really feel like those friendships and experiences in our beautiful desert have brought me more joy than holding on to my secrets as well as having been invited to some pretty amazing claims in return.

MINERAL OF THE MONTH: —BLUE JOHN FLUORITE

Webb Varum



BLUE JOHN a semi-precious form of fluorite (CaF_2) has a long history dating back to Roman times. In the modern era it has been mined in the Castleton Derbyshire Peak District, England since the 1770s, but it can also be found in Norway and in the US in California at Zzyzx Springs, San Bernadino, and other places, all in association with galena (lead sulfide). It has a hardness of 4 on the Mohs scale, a specific gravity of 3-3.5, perfect cleavage, and a vitreous luster.

The age of the Derbyshire deposit is thought to be 250 million years. It is assumed Blue John was formed by hypogenesis water (rising water) at a temperature of 90-120 deg C in a saline solution. There are indications that the deposition of the fluorite was the result of many episodes of hypogenesis.

It is assumed that the purple-blue and yellow color (hence the name *Blue John* from French *bleu* and *jaune*) arose from a disturbance in the crystal lattice. It is known that extreme heat will bleach out the color.



Blue John lends itself to the crafting of a variety of objects such as bowls, plates, statuettes and the like. Plastic resin is often used to strengthen blue john when very thin translucent structures are crafted, but care must be taken if heating is required to cure the resin. If the color does bleach out, it can sometimes be restored by irradiation. While not well known as a semi-precious mineral, blue john is still of great value, even today. Sources: Mindat.org, gemdat.org, personal

knowledge. Images, gemdat.org.



CFMS Shows, 2021

August 21-22, 2021 – Tehachapi, CA

Tehachapi Valley Gem and Mineral Society
500 East "F" Street, Tehachapi, CA 93561
Contact: (661) 972-1117, travis462@outlook.com
Website: <http://tvgms.org>

September 11-12, 2021 – Reno, NV

The Reno Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. Jackpot of Gems
Reno Convention Center, 4390 S. Virginia St., Reno
Contact Dan Ellis, sailondan55@aol.com
Website: www.renogms.org

September 18-19, 2021 – Chico, CA

Feather River Lapidary and Mineral Society
Silver Dollar Fairgrounds, 2357 Fair St., Chico, CA 95928
Contact: 1 530 586-7052;
Website: <http://featherriverrocks.org>

September 24, 25, 26, 2021 – Stoddard Wells, CA

Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club
Dale Evans Parkway and Stoddard Wells Road, Apple Valley, CA. Contact: (760) 243-2330, dwayna.barron@gmail.com Website: <http://www.vvgmc.org>

October 1-3, 2021 – Vista, CA

Vista Gem and Mineral Society
Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum, 2040 N. Santa Fe Ave., Vista CA 92083
Contact: 1 (760) 214-8770
Website: <http://www.vistarocks.org>

October 8 9, 10 & 11 Clovis, CA

Fresno Gem & Mineral Soc.
Clovis Rodeo Grounds, 445 Clovis, CA 93613
Contact: 1 (708) 821-7575, danielbolm096@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.fgms.us/>

October 9, 2021 – Antioch, CA

Antioch Lapidary Club
Club's clubhouse, 425 Fulton Shipyard Rd., Antioch
[Show Flyer](#) Contact: (925) 240-2954, vicmcpherson@sbcglobal.net Website: <http://www.antiochlapidaryclub.com>

October 9-10, 2021 – Los Altos, CA

Peninsula Gem and Geology Society
One No. San Antonio Road, Los Altos, CA 94022
Contact: 1 (408) 834-5384, steve_job@sbcbglobal.net
Website: <http://pggs.org>

October 10, 2021 – Fallbrook, CA

Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society
123 W. Alvarado St., Fallbrook, CA in the parking lot.
Contact (760) 728-1130 Email: info@fgms.org

October 16-17, 2021 – Santa Rosa

Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society
Santa Rosa Veterans Building, 1351 Maple Ave, Santa Rosa
Contact: Janyce Vickers (707) 217-0636
Email: santarosarockshow@hotmail.com

October 16-17, 2021 – Placerville, CA

El Dorado County Mineral and Gem Society
El Dorado County Fairgrounds, 100 Placerville Dr., Placerville, CA 95667 Contact: (530) 676-2472
Website: <https://eldoradomineralandgem.org>

October 30-31, 2021 – Mariposa CA

Mariposa Gem and Mineral Club
Mountains of Minerals Show
Mariposa County Fairgrounds, 5007 Fairgrounds Rd.
Contact: Meredith Meehan, mgmc@sti.net
Website: <http://mariposagemclub.org>

November 6-7, 2021 – Ridgecrest, CA

Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
Desert Empire Fairgrounds, 520 S. Richmond Rd., Ridgecrest CA 93555

November 13-14, 2021 – Yuba City

Sutter Buttes Gem and Mineral Society
Yuba – Sutter Fairgrounds
442 Franklin Ave., Franklin Hall, Yuba City
Contact 916 677-6696, horita@comcast.net
Website: <http://sutterbuttesgemmin.org>

Tumbling Obsidian—Continued from p. 14.

Step #1 and #2 – follow your tumbling directions as you would normally.

Step #3 – Replace half of the water with corn syrup! (True story!)

Step #4 – Use tin oxide to polish, again replacing half the water with corn syrup. Let this process go 1-3 weeks, checking once each week. I hope you are as amazed as I was.

Jackpot of Gems Exhibits—Tips for Preparing a Display Case

Theresa Langhans, Exhibits Chair

As I have every year, I am once again sharing with you an article that was published in the May 1989 issue of the *Conglomerate* (with some information edited for the current year). I thought it also fitting and timely for our exhibits article for this month. I want to thank all of you who are exhibiting at our Show this year. I hope that this article helps to give you some tips and ideas for how best to display your treasures.

These are a few tips that may be helpful to new members, as well as some veteran displayers.

SHOWMANSHIP: displaying your favorite collection should be the highlight of our hobby. Showmanship is very important in presenting an interesting and outstanding exhibit. Good showmanship is the ability of the exhibitor to use the material, arrangement, and labeling to create a display, which will be educational and will attract and hold the interest of the viewer. Remember that sometimes **LESS is MORE** (don't overcrowd your case with material). One collection may impress you as just "okay" when actually it contains outstanding specimens; conversely, another may have you dazzled by the beauty of a very ordinary collection. Showmanship is the basic difference.

CLEANLINESS: do not display a dusty or finger-printed specimen or case. Make certain that the glass on the face of the exhibit case is clean on the **INSIDE** and the outside. Material that cannot be polished should be as clean as possible with emphasis on the perfection and rarity of the article. This would include fossils, artifacts, and shells, etc. with correct nomenclature and, if rare, brief historic information to make it more interesting to the layman. Be neat, display with no lint, dust or foreign objects to distract the viewer's observation.

LIGHTING: Good lighting is essential to gem display. Scenic agate slabs are best viewed with a light behind them. Spotlights are suitable for large spectacular pieces, but in most cases lights directly above or inside each case are best. (Lighting is provided for you if you are borrowing a "club case"). Check for shadows and do not use mirrors.

BACKGROUND: Make your case as inconspicuous as possible, devoting time to keep the eye focused on the subject of the display. Materials used as liners should be of such color and texture as to enhance rather than detract from the theme of the display. (Some of you are borrowing liners that are available from the "Society"). Again, keep in mind that sometimes "less is more". If you put too many items in your case, it is distracting and can't catch someone's attention.

SET-UP: We certainly do appreciate all of the help that our volunteers offer throughout the Show. Beginning at 7am on that Friday (10th of September) we will be gathering at the Reno Sparks Convention Center Exhibit Hall. It takes a lot of time to set up the hall to get ready for the Show. We invite everyone who is able—To assist! Beginning at noon, and until 8pm, you can set up your exhibit. For those of you borrowing cases, the case will be set up and will be ready for you to just put in your material. I look forward to working with each of you at the Show!



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