



The Conglomerate

The Monthly Newsletter of the Reno
Gem and Mineral Society

October 2021

General Meeting

Wed. Oct. 6, 7pm

Baldini's Second Floor

Board Meeting

Wed. Oct. 13, 6 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

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dean Sizemore

Hello RGMS Family: we just completed our annual Jackpot of Gems and it was the most successful we have ever had. Saturday we had 1,100 people through plus kids, breaking our previous weekend record. Vendors and guests said that it was a complete success. Everyone loved the new venue and had a great selling and buying weekend.

I can't thank all our volunteer members enough for their hard work: the demonstrations were a hit; Wheel of Fortune had a line every time I went by with not only kids but adults playing; also, silent auction rocked (pun intended), so many nice items. I am not aware of any security issues; **Theresa Langhans** and her team controlled that, as always. Your displays were incredible; picking a president's award took me 4 trips and an over night to decide on a winner. It was rough and a great honor. I want to congratulate **Boyd Lasater** for winning the President's award--beautiful presentation.

Terry Bush has formed his committee for next year's Officers and Board election. We need 7 Members for the Board at Large whose duties are to represent the membership at the board meetings. Also, President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer plus their Assistants. If interested please contact him; I know they will be reaching out. Typically, the Treasurer and Secretary seem to continue, but we need assistants for both at the minimum.

I am betting our last RGMS trip of the year, which was McDermott, was a complete success. I know our Field Trip Directors are looking at perhaps one or two more before winter, and they will keep you updated. We also have our joint event, Rye Patch Nugget Shoot with local gold panning and metal detecting groups. It is the biggest free metal detecting event with (last I heard) over \$25,000 in prizes; my understanding is over 600 kids and adults will be there. We went out and hid tokens, jewelry, coins, and other cool metal items last week on the
Continued next page

100-acre parcel the kids' hunt happens on. We are excited as a Board to be doing these joint ventures, with Rye Patch, Black Rock, TMCC, and others.

I believe our Social Director will be asking also, so I may repeat: with over 600 members at this time, we have most definitely outgrown our building for the Holiday Potluck. We need a couple of things 1: a person or group to head this, Denise could have done at the building but no time currently for this big of an event this close. 2: we obviously need a location to house it at a reasonable cost It would be nice if we could find a place with a kitchen just to keep things warm so we are still able to do a potluck which would be a huge savings over a place that would require that we purchase food from them. We are scheduled for December 11th and would like to keep that date.

Denise and I wish you all the best for the coming month. Thank you all for your hard work and we look forward to seeing you all at our General Meeting at Baldini's October 6th at 7PM.

**Sunshine
Lori Connel**

Hello rockhounds, I hope everyone has had a good summer. I know many of the days were smoke filled and makes it feel like our summer was so short. Our hearts go out to the people affected by the fires. I hope some of you were able to go out and get some rock digging done. It really helps the mind clear and gives you pleasure at the end of the day.

We just finished the Jackpot of Gems show last month and what a blast we all had. It was so good to rear back up and show Reno and surrounding areas what we are made of, and what our beautiful state has to offer. I'd personally like to thank all members that helped with the silent auction. Eric and I could not have done this without your help. The great food and camaraderie shared with our members and vendors on Friday and Sunday night was outstanding. We really enjoyed ourselves.

**Membership
Janet Longueira, Director**

Whew! We added 30 new members from the show! RGMS would like to welcome these new and returning members :

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Christina Borger | Bobbi & Brian |
| Chuck & Gina Bump | Mehring |
| Wang-Ping Chen | Christine Moore |
| Kimberly Dawson | Lucia Patterson |
| Matthew Draggo | Cyndie Peterson |
| Jeremy Flatt | Adrienne & Briant Phillips |
| Chris & Michelle Foster | Marcus & Robin Rab-inowitz |
| Shannon Garcia | Tina & Richard Rosen |
| James & Maryla Glaser | Shahla Steele |
| Marc Gray | John Stralla |
| Tyrone Jimenez | Lupe & Jeff Sweet |
| David & Celia Kampwerth | Marshall & Angie Tolbert |
| Marty Karadanis | Scott Warner |
| Duncan Kennedy | Anna & Erik Welsh |
| Colleen Laidlaw | Louise & James Whewell |
| Patrick LaRose | Sue Wildermuth |
| Crystal Loucado | April Young |
| Carol Martini | |
| Tracy McCandless | |
| Danny McLaughlin | |

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Unfortunately, some of our members may be experiencing some health issues or need some extra help for many different reasons. If you know of someone that could use some extra cheer, let me know. I'd be glad to drop a card or make a phone call. We certainly don't want to violate anyone's privacy, but want to let them know we care. One of the best things we can do is "help our fellowman". With that note, I would like to request continued prayers for **Sam Macaluso, Dean and Denise Sizemore, and Virginia Keeley**. Please stay safe and stay connected to your family and friends. It's more important than ever nowadays.

If you need to reach me, my phone number is 775-233-5693

**Field Trip to Black Rock—Report
Rita Heidkamp and Scott Heidorn**

Jim Welker & Rob Kendrick were fantastic trip leaders. I hope they can fill in the gaps in this report or maybe supply a few better pictures.

It was a small group who took a gamble that there would be less smoke at Black Rock than in town. And lucky for us it was a wise bet! There was some smoke - but nothing to compete with Playa dust as we drove across to find some beautiful Christmas Tree agate and some bonus needle like druzy rocks (need to ask John--of John and Lorri--what they are called - he found the honey hole and graciously shared some with us). After a hot day of hiking and searching we stopped at Double Hot Springs to wash off. Wow did that feel great! A few hearty hunters finished the day hunting for Tufa. Many thanks to Rob for his willingness to take us out there after a long day.

The following day it was back across the playa. Dust, dust and more dust as anyone crossing the playa should expect! We saw a beautiful herd of wild horses galloping as we neared the dig site. We hunted geodes and had a great time getting to know each other. Another group went back in search of Christmas Tree agate and more of the needle druzy.

We closed out the day with a fantastic potluck with everything from tri-tip to hot dogs, delicious salads, and lasagna in a dutch oven. For those who still had room, the meal was topped off with apple pie and cheese cake. As the day turned to night, we had fun learning about the stars with the help of our leader Rob's Skyguide app. We finished the night with a scorpion hunt using black light. We found an abundance-- but mostly small little guys. We also had fun seeing which of our finds changed color under blacklight. The Tufa glowed an eerie orange.

As we packed up on the final morning, the smoke had moved back in and we were happy to be heading home. We had so much fun hunting rocks we forgot to take pictures of rocks or people while we were in the field!

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Membership, continued

Janet Longueira, Director

More new members from before the Jackpot of Gems!! Welcome!

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Aaron Bennett | Amy Blitz |
| Denzil Bryant | Emi & Errol Naimon |
| Jera Ochoa | Tahnee Praiswater |
| Shane Ritter | Rebecca Scheer |
| Vincent Soldano & Shey'l Hansen | |
| Brittany Sundheim | John & Stone Trimbach |

Jackpot of Gems Show

Daniel Ellis, Show Chair

Want to give a big thanks to all who came to help put on the show this year. Without your help and time it would be impossible to make this happen.

So this one in a new venue and new time of year is over. We can now look forward to next year and see if we can do it again.

Once again thanks and till next time keep looking for those crazy cool rock finds.

Holiday Potluck

Denise Sizemore, Social Director

What a great Vendor RGMS Jackpot of Gems Potluck we had on Friday Sept. 11th. It was well attended by the vendors and our wonderful volunteer members. Thank you, **Lori Connel**, for stepping up and taking the lead on the Dinner Friday and to **Janet and Albie Longueira** for setting up the room and to **Virginia Keeley** for helping hostess, and all the people that brought food, helped set up and stayed after a long weekend and helped clean up on Sunday. You are all very much appreciated

.UPDATE! As of 9/29 we have a location!! But we have also a new date—Our **holiday potluck will be December 4 at the Lazy 5 indoor hall.** Time to be announced later, but probably in the evening. **No alcohol permitted.**

Ed: Thanks to Denise, **Steve Smith**, and **Laura Jackson** who scrambled around and made many calls to find this venue for us.

signs. Hematite produces red, Goethite, yellow or brown.

Jasper can be translucent but more often is opaque. It is usually darker than agate with very random patterns.

Agates and jaspers come in many colors. Both polish well and work satisfactorily for lapidary purposes. **THEY ARE THE GREATEST**

Is It Agate or Jasper?

D. W. Webb Varnum

Jasper and agates are among the most popular semi precious gem stones for lapidary and collectors. So we need to know the differences.

Both are microcrystalline quartz. The variety called chalcedony is found in beds, dykes, geodes, botryoidal masses, as replacements of once living matter as fossils or petrified material. It is deposited from silica-dioxide-rich hydrothermal water that is carrying traces of other minerals as impurities. It is these impurities that are found in the crystal lattices that form the color bands, patterns, and inclusions. These inclusions are what makes agates and jaspers different from chalcedony.

SO. What is the difference? Generally, agate is a transparent or translucent form of chalcedony in which the coloration takes the form of regular bands, rings, clouds, wispy streaks, inclusions, and grapes.

Agate with continuous straight lines or concentric lines is called fortification agate, mossy agate contains wispy or lacy inclusions of colored material.

Green coloration results when chlorite or nickel penetrates cracks or voids in the silicate gel before hardening. This produces pictures and de-



Board meeting notes for September 15, 2021
Steve Norman, Secretary

President **Dean Sizemore** called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and **Steve Smith** led the pledge of allegiance. Dean thanked everyone for all the volunteer work that was done to produce such a great show and said, "You All Rock!"

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. **Thomas Nichols** moved to accept the Secretary's report. **Robyn Howard** seconded and motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: **Robyn Howard** reviewed the budget for next year 2022. Upon review a suggested to increase the Education Outreach printing estimates to \$300. The budget lacked a line for scholarships to benefit college students in Geology and Earth Sciences. There is a budget meeting scheduled for October 11 at 6 PM. Profit and Loss statement reviewed. Sue Webb moved to accept the financial report. **Steve Smith** seconded and motion carried. It was suggested to add a line to the profit and loss statement to show year to date on income and expenses to get a sense of how the finances are holding up. Robyn then reviewed the Jackpot of Show budget. 1902 paid admissions and 168 children tickets issued. Silent Auction \$11,870. Raffle \$1,240. Wheel of Fortune \$760, Magazine sales \$179. Lot of expenses from the Convention Center so no word yet on profit but it seems the Show did well in a number of ways. Next month should have a full report. There was some discussion of what might improve the show next year and suggestion made to channel ideas to Steve Smith via email or attend the Show Meeting Critique on Monday, September 20 at 6 PM.

Website: **Tom Nichols** has updated website to the next upcoming event at the Nugget Shootout. Online auctions will be announced. There may be an auction in October, Robyn is working on this.

Social: **Denise Sizemore** reported attendance at 42 including 8 Vendors at the potluck on Friday, September 10, 2021. Denise appreciated all of the help that people provided to make the event a success. 29 Volunteers enjoyed leftovers from the potluck on Friday after the truck had been unloaded on Sunday night. Mark your calendar for Holiday Party on December 11th.

Building and Silent Auction: **Eric Fendelander** was most appreciative of all the volunteers that made the Silent Auction successful. There was an idea to put up a 30-minute clock to show the countdown of the half-hour auction.

California Federation Mineral Association: Jennifer reports next meeting is in Visalia, CA in November 2021. She noted that with our increased membership, we may be one of the largest Societies in the Federation.

Conglomerate: Director **Sue Webb** asks for articles and pictures on anything Society related: fieldtrips, shop, equipment, tools, safety issues, or the experience of being in outdoors in nature.

The Rock Building (TRB): **Linda Johnston** has served an eviction notice to a tenant for debt. Locks have been changed. Linda is making arrangements for the tenant to move automotive stuff out of the building. This tenant is in the back of the building on Pittman Street. Hopefully the matter will be resolved without legal proceedings. There is a meeting for all instructors and interested Society members to make improvements to building plans that are being considered. This meeting will be Friday, September 17 at 6 PM. Linda needs a general contractor if anyone has suggestions.

Field Trip: Director **Rob Kendrick** reported the upcoming trip to McDermitt on September 16-19. **Jim Welker** will be assisting since he knows the area so well. See Conglomerate for details.

Classes: Director **Julie Hilsabeck** has a busy schedule of classes. Julie has another group of students from Truckee Meadow Community College taking classes. They join the Society to take the classes. Lapidary and Silver classes are full. Read the Conglomerate for details on classes and dates. Open House has

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been busy starting at 11 AM and going on till 9 PM. Anyone wanting to help out contact Julie. She is considering a proposal to raise shop fees from \$5 to \$7.50 per hour starting at the first of the year. Julie thanked instructors for the Show demonstrations.

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Volunteers: Director **Terry Bush** is looking for Junior Rockhound leader to conduct a children's class on the day of a general meeting to occupy the children with fun activities in the back corner of the room. Terry is looking for a Public Relations volunteer as well numerous positions to assist current Directors with their various duties. Thanks. Terry!

Education Outreach: **Steve Norman** reports 4 class presentations on rocks and minerals at Westergard Elementary School. **Debbie Bush** drives from Fernley into Reno to help out. Thank you, Debbie! There are 6 more schools expressing interest and are scheduling soon. Anyone wanting to help contact Steve or Debbie. 775-560-4782 (Steve)

Proposal: Past President **Tom Nichols** wants parliamentary procedures to be used by the Society in order for budget items to be on the agenda and discussed by the Board unless an emergency exists. This would allow advance notice before making complex decisions. Generally, the proposal asks that unbudgeted items be presented on the meeting agenda before Board action. The proposal was discussed at length and motion was made by Vice President **Steve Smith** to table the motion and seconded by **Trisha Vailancourt**. Motion carried.

Social Media: **Sven Sanders** noted over 22,000 views on the email blast and Facebook advertisements while adding 86 new members to the Reno Gem Facebook page. Currently, we are not using Twitter or Instagram but that has a lot of potentials to get the word out to young people.

Volunteer: Director **Terry Bush** request that anyone volunteering time to report their time. Terry plans to build a spreadsheet for members to be able to track their volunteer time.

Scholarship Committee: **Steve Norman** is heading the effort to establish procedures for providing a scholarship to serious students interested in pursuing careers in geology and earth sciences. If you would like to get involved email: snorm11@hotmail.com (snorm(eleven)).

President **Dean Sizemore** asked for volunteers for the nominating committee for next year's officers. Committee to form will be **Sue Webb**, **Phillipp Weirauch**, **Steve Norman** and **Theresa Langhans** (if she accepts).

Building Committee: All instructors and anyone interested and or involved with classes at The Rock Building are meeting Friday, September 17, 2021 at 6 PM. **John Peterson** has a preliminary drawing to get the conversation started. This important gathering will be the beginning of many meetings to design a new shop along with comfortable classrooms to make a workable and highly satisfactory place for people to use shop equipment and learn the numerous crafts and skills that the Society offers.

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Raffle: **Laura Jackson** reports \$259 for the raffle at the general meeting with some fabulous rock samples as prizes. Dean wants to make sure that donations are being requested to minimize expenses.

Membership: Director **Janet Longueira** reports 31 applications for memberships at the Jackpot of Gems Show. There are now 364 memberships with 609 members. This is a record amount for the most members in the Reno Gem and Mineral Society.

Craft Fair/Displays: **Theresa Langhans** absent. Thanks to all who have volunteered with a display. Craft Fair is upcoming with 17 vendors in November.

Shop: Director **Chuck Jackson** received a donation of a 24-inch saw. It has good bones but is in rough shape. Chuck has a new project to work on. Thanks, Chuck!

Social: **Lori Connel** absent but please keep **Sam Macaluso, Fred and Tammy Pierce** and **Eric Fendelander** in your thoughts and prayers.

Library: Director **Tricia Vaillancourt** reports good progress on the library resources.

Virginia Keeley announce that due to some medical issues she is still involved but may not be as active.

Eric Fendelander made a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Denise Sizemore** seconded. Motion Carried. 8:04 PM.

Note: Next General meeting at Baldini's Sports Casino will be October 6, starting at 7 PM. **Sue Webb** and **Steve Norman** deliver a short presentation on earth science geared for families and their children to learn more about geology and earth science through a Badge Program that could take place at the same time as the General meeting.

Dangers of Rock Dust By Glen Kuban

PALEO FOOTNOTES VOLUME 16 NUMBER 8 AUGUST 2021 First published in the December 1997 *Paleo Footnotes*

Many collectors use a mechanical rock saw to cut, trim, or abrade rocks and fossils in the field or lab. Dangers of this activity include flying rock chips, wounds from the blade itself or broken blades, and rock dust, which is extremely dangerous to inhale. Always read and understand the proper operation of any mechanical tool before using it. Whenever cutting or grinding rock, wear protective eye goggles. Also wear a good respirator, or use a dust collection system, to avoid inhaling rock dust which accumulates in the lungs and can cause a variety of serious illnesses.

For those not convinced that rock dust is a serious danger, or that they can get away with not wearing a respirator or working under a hood (if working indoors), I encourage you to read the message below. The original message was posted on 7-14-97 in the Rocks and Fossils News groups, and my reply was sent to that list as well as the Dinosaur List, VrtPaleo and Fossil Nuts.

The original message I am responding to was posted in Rocks and Fossils, but I am sending my response to the other paleo related lists as well, because I feel this is an important safety issue. It affects anyone who even occasionally cuts rocks or fossils, or does fossil preparation work. It will be very worthwhile if it prevents even one person from suffering lung problems or dying prematurely. With that deliberately onerous introduction, let me quote the post that prompted my response:

Peter's Post: "Last night I spent an hour cutting sandstone sidewalk blocks with composition blade made of fiberglass and carborundum grit. This is a dry saw and it was a still night and clouds of dust were all around. Some of it hung in the air for minutes. I am not really concerned about a one-shot exposure, but it did make me wonder if this is the size of silica which DOES represent a health hazard. Of course, I do not know for sure that the fine dust was silica, as opposed to calcium carbonate (the cement in the sandstone) or material from the new blade..."

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(Dangers of Rock Dust - continued from previous page) Glen's Response: "It's funny, or really not so funny, that you should write now. I'm suffering a chronic lung irritation, and seeing doctors now, because of the results of a similar incident. In short, yes, one or a few exposures to significant amounts of freshly-cut rock dust can cause serious problems. Silicosis is only one of the many lung problems that can be caused by rock dust, many of which (like fibrosis) can occur no matter what the composition of the rock. Wearing a good respirator or hood with dust collector if working indoors is a must. If you don't have the proper safety equipment, don't cut the rock!

Unfortunately, I found out the hard way, I hope everyone learns from my mistakes. About a year ago our fossil club went to Ontario to collect trilobites, and we took along a diamond rock saw. I only sawed out a few trilobites for fellow members (without wearing a mask, I forgot to bring one) and I tried to not inhale the dust. However, large clouds of it were kicked up each time, and it was impossible to avoid inhaling quite a bit of it. By the next morning I had significant lung irritation, and have had it ever since - some days worse than others. I have frequent coughing and uncomfortable sensation in my upper chest. After this went on a few weeks, I went to a doctor, not knowing if I had contracted a bacteria, fungus, or other microbe at the quarry, or just had accumulated too much dust in my lungs. An x-ray was clear, but that is not unusual in such cases (it sometimes takes years for fibrosis, TB, cancer and other diseases to develop). Apparently, the rock dust itself is the cause of the current lung irritation, and it may never get better. In fact, it may worsen into other conditions, as explained below.

Many people assume years of exposure to rock dust is needed to cause serious problems, and this is generally true when dealing with wind-blown, low concentration dust, which usually has already weathered to some degree. But not so with freshly cut rock. After I started having my problems, I began talking to doctors and doing lots of reading. I also talked to an uncle who used to work in a quarry, and is now dying of pulmonary fibrosis at the age of 55. I am now going to his doctor.

It turns out that not only do rock particles of any composition tend to stay and accumulate in the lungs, but freshly cut rock is the worst, and extremely pernicious. Even one or a few incidents of significant inhalation of such dust can cause long irritation and start a process of increasingly serious lung damage. The microscopic particles are like millions of razor-edged shards that damage lung tissue directly, as well as create conditions promoting the development of TB, micro plasms, fibrosis, and cancer. Experiments with rats and other animals have shown that inhalation of fresh cut rock dust is far more damaging than worn rock dust of any composition, and leads to far greater rates of several diseases, including pulmonary fibrosis and lung cancer. But even accumulations of worn rock dust in the lungs greatly increases chances of lung disease.

I've also made many fossil molds and casts over the years, and although I often wore a mask while working with plaster, sometime I did not. I may well have accumulated plaster in my lungs as well, which may have contributed to or aggravated my lung condition. Plaster hardens when in contact with moisture, wherever it occurs, including one's lungs. But I did not have the constant lung irritation until after the Ontario trip using the rock saw (on hard shales and siltstones), and have had it ever since.

I have another appointment with a pulmonary doctor on Thursday, but from what I have learned, such damage is generally irreversible, and the best I may hope for is to have my condition not get worse. I may have to live with lung irritation and chronic cough for the rest of my life, plus increased chances for the serious conditions I listed above.

So PLEASE, whenever you are cutting or grinding rock of any kind ALWAYS wear a respirator (not just a cheap dust mask). If working indoors, use a dust collecting hood, or don't do it. Your health is not worth any rock or fossil.

There are serious inhalation dangers in the lab also, including solvents, urethanes, glues, and other chemicals used on prep work. These too can have accumulated effects, and lead to a variety of health problems. Work with such chemicals only with very good ventilation, or under a hood, or don't do it. Again, a rock or fossil is not worth your health. If I scared anyone, I can't feel too bad, because I wish someone had scared me before I did what I did, and now may have to pay the price the rest of my life.

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(Dangers of Rock Dust, cont. from p. 8) Pete, in your case, I hope you do not have any problems, and can only urge you not to do it again, at least not without wearing a respirator. The dust you created by cutting sandstone probably included a mixture of siliceous sand particles, calcium carbonate particles (from the cement between the grains), and fibers from the fibrous saw blade. All could be dangerous to inhale.

[Ed: Given the current health issues resulting from Covid, this story alerts us to dangers we may tend to ignore when we are enjoying our shop. We must all consider putting those annoying masks on when we are using lapidary equipment or sawing, soldering, or buffing silver and copper. Just for example, my own brother-in-law (a rather horrible human being) used to build futon frames in his garage. The work involved a lot of wood dust from some of the exotic woods he used, but he refused to wear a respirator—too hot, too clumsy, too sissifying. Some years later he, who had never smoked a day in his life, died of inoperable lung cancer.]

A Novice Rockhound's Journal ***Paul Morasch***

My name is Paul, Abby is my wife. One of my brothers is named Herb. We recently moved here from a neighboring state and are very happy we did. Abby and I bought a home in Wingfield Springs, Herb in Cold Springs.

Having noticed that the desert terrain is home to many rocks (they're everywhere it seems), Herb and I have decided that rockhounding would be a great way to "discover" Nevada as well as learn to identify what we may find. A good hobby to pursue perhaps.

At a craft show held at the Nugget last fall I bought several books on the subject. One is titled "ROCKHOUNDING Nevada" and contains maps to a hundred or so locations statewide to collect gems and minerals. The very first listing is Cold Springs Rd. where we may find Chrysocolla and Malachite. Sounds great.

I need to let you know I had a knee replacement earlier this year, Herb late last year. Herb, poor fellow, has also had both hips replaced. We may have 2 healthy legs between us.

About a month ago Herb and I made the 2 mile trek to the site, parked my Outback, grabbed tools and some water and headed uphill.

Walking along we noticed piles of stones beside the road and at one point Herb commented something like "why are they being dumped up here?" We thought they were excavations from all the construction going on in the Cold Springs area. Obviously, we had never heard of tailings.

After a short distance we came to the proverbial fork in the road, Of course we chose the path less travelled; it led uphill for more than an hour. We stopped periodically and gathered a small sample of the stones as we came upon interesting ones, tossing them in our packs with the gear. Generally, they were greenish and rather hard. We did manage to leave a new rock chisel somewhere along the way. As we neared the crest of the hill, I noticed the weight of my pack and suggested we turn around and head back down. With aching knees, we did just that, learning quickly that while heading uphill is difficult going down is nearly impossible.

At one point, as we stopped to rest where the road curved, my feet went out from under me and I found myself sliding downhill. Fortunately, my backpack saved me from injury. We made our way home happy with our treasures, satisfied with our efforts. A good start we thought

I found the RGMS website and eventually contacted Janet Longueira. With her help I filled out the application for Herb and Abby and me requesting a family membership. Green rocks in hand Herb and I went to the Rock Building on Monday, meeting Janet, Trish Villancourt and Julie Hilsabeck (among others). Each took time to explain their roles in RGMS, at the same time making us feel welcome. We were told about the library, lapidary classes, shown the shop. Over all we were made to feel very welcome. Herb and I both

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SCHOOL REPORT
Julie Hilsabeck, School Director

October Classes are Available Now

You must be a paid member of the Reno Gem & Mineral Society to be eligible to attend any of the classes listed below.

All classes are held at the Shop at 480 S. Rock Blvd, Sparks, NV.

Baldini's is open and our General Meetings occur on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm.

Register for all classes (except Lapidary) at the General Meeting.

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, long, floppy sleeves must be restrained and ear protection suggested. All supplies, slabs, equipment provided for your first month. You will complete 3 projects during your class. Email rgms.schooldirector@gmail.com as soon as possible, identify which class time 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. **Registration is on a first come, first served basis.** Register at the General Meeting. Kit fee varies with the price of silver and is running between \$25.00 and \$35.00 per student.

Advanced Silver Fabrication – **Thursday** 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Cost is \$60.00 - Experienced students only—Maximum of 13 students. Contact the Instructor, **Jill Atkins**, at atkinsdesign@gmail.com to register for class

Bead Weaving with Sue Webb – **Must sign up.** October beading class will be held on Sunday, October 17, from 10-2. The project will be St. Petersburg Chain stitch bracelet. Materials list: All beads are size 11 Miyuki or Toto seed beads. Delicas also work, but Czech beads often leave bumps. **Do not use Chinese beads.** **A (main) color** for outside of bracelet. **B (accent) color**--for arrow (chevron?) inside A beads.] **C (highlight) color** for center of arrows. Size 12 beading needle (size 10 OK, maybe iffy) . **Clasp. 6# Fireline** (8# is OK) All material is available locally. Class fee \$2.50/hour. Sign up with Sue at rgms.bulletin@gmail.com or at the meeting 10.6. .



SCHOOL REPORT
continued

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. Advanced registration is required. Register at the General Meeting. Registration is on a first come, first served basis.

Basic Beading – No class size limit – new and returning students welcome - \$10.00; Kit fee \$20.00 **Tuesday, October 5** 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, October 12 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, October 19** 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, October 26** 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.

Mineral Identification **Wednesday, October 20 and 27 from 7-9 pm.** Sign up for the class at the October meeting. Class fee of \$60 includes ID kit. You will need to purchase a book: Walter Schumann, *Handbook of Rocks, Minerals, and Gemstones*. Order from BN or Amazon to have the book in hand by the first class meeting. Taught by Webb Varnum.

Lost Wax Casting—offered over two entire weekends, both Sat and Sun—**Oct 9, 10, 16 & 17.**

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.



October 2021

Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1	2
3	46	5 Beg. Lapidary (4 New only) 1-3; 7-9pm Basic Bead- ing 7-9 pm	6 General Meeting 7pm Baldini's	7 Beg. & Adv Silver Fabrication 6pm - 9pm	8	9 Lost Wax Carving 9 AM—4PM
10 Lost Wax Carving 9 AM—4PM	11 Open House 11am -9 pm	12 Beg. Lapidary (4 New only) 1-3; 7-9pm Wire Linking 7-9pm	13 Board Meet- ing 6-9pm Rock Build- ing	14 Beg. & Adv Silver Fabrication 6pm - 9pm	15	16 Lost Wax Carving 9 AM—4PM
17 Beading 10-2 Lost Wax Carving 9 AM—4PM	18 Open House 11am -9 pm.	19 Beg Lapidary (4 New only) 1-3; 7-9pm Pearl Knot- ting 7-9pm	20 Mineral ID 7-9 pm	21 Beg. & Adv Silver Fabrication 6pm - 9pm	22	23
24/31  Halloween	25 Open House 11am -9 pm	26 Beg Lapidary (4 New only) 1-3; 7-9pm Basic Jewelry Repair 7-9pm	27 Mineral ID 7-9 pm	28	29	30

Desperately Seeking Contractors
Linda Johnston, LLC Manager

The Building Team is working on the renovation for our new facilities and time is of the essence. **HOWEVER, WE MUST HAVE A GENERAL CONTRACTOR TO PROCEED!!!**

If you know of anyone, licensed in Nevada, who is a general contractor, we will be accepting bids within the next couple of weeks. For details, please refer him or her to Linda Johnston, 775-224-4830.

(Rockhound. Cont. from p. 9) both took advantage of our new membership and borrowed books from the library. Julie introduced us to Patrick. We shared our green stone finds with him hoping he'd be able to tell us what they are. (I believe they are variety of granite.) He knew where they came from and offered to meet us at Cold Springs Rd. at 8 am the following Wednesday. We were elated. Quite generous of him, don't you think?

We found him there, waiting for us and followed him up the hill a short distance, this time taking the more frequented path, parked and discovered we needed to look in the tailings nearby. Who would have thought that? He turned out to be very hands on, showing us where and how to dig and what to look for. He even lent us his 5 gallon water container to help us wash rocks. With his help we found many specimens of Chrysocolla, one of which he cut for us later in the week. We now hold him in our gratitude.

Hello! I'm Your New Historian Philipp Weinrauch

This is the first of what I hope will be a lot of (re-)new "letters from the past - views into the future". As our new historian-in-charge, I thought in my first column I should take a moment to offer a look into who I am, and why am I doing what I am planning to do here, and what plans are forming :

For those I have not met yet, my name is **Philipp Weirauch** - immigrant from Hamburg, Germany. My wife, **Elena**, and I joined the Society only a few months ago.

After hearing of the historian vacancy I was sure I had to volunteer because "if you want to shape the future, you must know the history," and what better way to get to know as much as possible about our great RGMS than by taking over an office and getting involved as much as possible.

Oh man, what did I sign up for?

After Dean sent me the "job description," I had the clear feeling that I might want to re-think my decision...But, fate had different plans:

One beautiful afternoon Elena and I walked into Franz's Cafe (corner McCarren and Mayberry - and for those who haven't been there: awesome home made cakes, ice cream and bread) and we bumped into one nice fellow Renoite. He started the conversation with: "Are you German?" and sure we had to answer to that. After exchanging a few more pleasantries, we came to the all decisive question: "Are you doing any sports?". Answering "no" was not right: He immediately tried to recruit us for fencing! So we had to tell him that we just picked up a brand new hobby by joining the RGMS a few weeks earlier and I even volunteered to become their historian...Well as some of you already know or have guessed by now: we had run into **Dino Germano**, the husband of the wonderful late **Tamela Germano** - our long-time former historian.

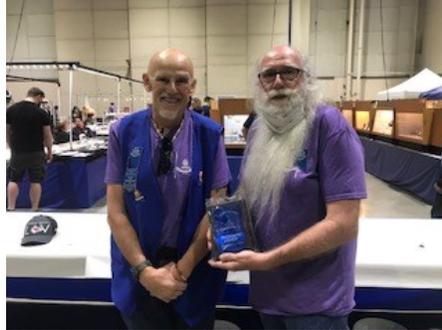
So from now on I am sure: I am the new historian of the RGMS and will try my very best to fill in the large shoes left by my former historians: from Tamela back to **Theresa** and then on to **Alberta** - you three set the example! thank you!

I also want to circulate the idea to start making some recordings and interviews with long-time members. My idea is to do this electronically and then we can see if we still want to transcribe things to print in the Conglomerate or provide them in some podcast type of form? What are your thoughts? Any experience with podcasts? Is there anybody who thinks this should not be public? Looking forward to your ideas and feedback. Also, can someone who has contact details for **John and Alberta** please contact me. I would love to start the program with them!

I can be best reached via phone (650)2838934 or email: philipp@logimove.com.

Have a wonderful month.

Jackpot of Gems images for your enjoyment
Steve Smith, RGMS Photographer



Jackpot of Gems images for your enjoyment
Steve Smith, RGMS Photographer



CFMS Shows, 2021

Covid is still not over! Please check to be sure the show is happening.

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 2-3, 2021 – Grass Valley, CA

Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society
Nevada County Fairgrounds, Main Street Center, 11228 McCourtney Rd, Grass Valley, CA 95949
Contact 4vanclan5@att.net

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, vicmcpher-son@sbcglobal.net Website: <http://www.antiochlapidary-club.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
Fieldtrip November 7th at 9 AM
Contact: (760) 375-7905, fjrocks@dslextreme.com

November 6-7, 2021, Concord, CA

Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society
Centre Concord, 5298 Clayton Rd., Concord, CA 94518
Time: 10 AM – 5 PM each day
Email: mhopkins@ironhorsedesign.net
Website: <https://contracostamineralandgemsociety.org/annual-show/>

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>

November 20-21, 2021 – Lake Side, CA

El Cajon Valley Gem and Mineral Society
Lakeside Rodeo Grounds, 12584 Mapleview St., Lakeside, CA 92040
Contact: 619 729-7904, ecvgms@gmail.com
Website: <http://ecvgms.org>

November 20-21, 2021 – Santa Cruz, CA

Santa Cruz Mineral and Gem Society
Santa Cruz Live Oak Grange, 1900 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062
Contact: 408-644-7848, scruzmgs@gmail.com
Website: <http://scrockngem.org>

December 5, 2021 – Lake Elsinore, CA

Lake Elsinore Gem & Mineral Society,
32097 Corydon Rd., Lake Elsinore, CA 92530
Contact: (909) 208-6956, berylman50@aol.com
Website: Facebook: Lake Elsinore Gem & Mineral Society



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Vice President: Steve Smith rgms.vp@gmail.com
Secretary: Steve Norman rgms.secretary@gmail.com
Asst. Secretary: Available
Treasurer: Robyn Howard rgms.treasurer@gmail.com
Asst. Treasurer: Virginia Keeley

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 Gen. Mtg Door Prizes Laura Jackson,
 Drew Van Hooven
 Jr. Rockhounds Advisor Steve Norman

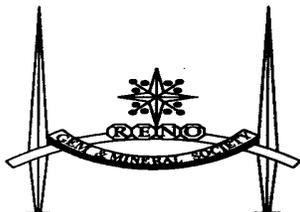
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Beading: Sue Webb
Casting: Available
Knotting & Stringing & more
Lapidary: Barbara Hartman
 Julie Hilsabeck
 Lloyd Raymond**
Mineral ID: Webb Varnum
Silver Fabrication: Jill Atkins**
 Al Bolshazy
 Chuck Jackson
 Jay Logue**
Wire Art: Available
 Available

Note: As is general practice among newsletter editors, email addresses are listed with "at" instead of the @ sign in an attempt to foil scammers' bots that scan the web for email addresses.

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Webmaster: Available



RENO GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

480 S. Rock Blvd.
Sparks, NV 89431

FALL 2021 CRAFT FAIR RESERVATION

The Craft Fair will be held November 5, 6, 7 2021 at Reno Town Mall. The Fair is open to RGMS Club Crafters with items, related (or not) to our hobby, being offered for sale. You may choose to be a vendor all three days, or just Saturday/Sunday; cost of the space is the same. (Non-RGMS vendors may also participate, but there are additional requirements)

The hours of the Fair are:

Friday: 10am – 6pm Saturday: 10am – 5pm Sunday: 10am – 3pm

Cost to participate in the Fair is \$65 for a 6' linear space (one table size), plus \$20 for a business license (if you don't already have a Reno business license) to be **paid with this reservation**. Additional 6' table spaces will be an additional \$35 each. You will also be responsible for paying the appropriate percentage of your sales taxes to the State at the end of the Craft Fair.

You may cancel any time prior to six weeks before the Fair and get reimbursed for your fees. If you cancel after that time, your fees will be considered a donation to RGMS.

Please complete the information below and return to:

Theresa Langhans, RGMS Craft Fair Coordinator

480 S. Rock Blvd.

Sparks, Nv. 89431

or send via email: theresalanghans@yahoo.com

Name of Participant: _____

Type of Craft: _____

Address of Participant: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone number: _____

Email contact: _____

Nevada State (Department of Taxation) Tax ID # (if you have one): _____

I will participate: (circle one) Fri/Sat/Sun Sat/Sun

Initial Reservation Fee for one table space: \$ 65.00

Plus additional # of Tables (\$35 per table): # _____ X \$35 = \$ _____

Plus Business License Fee: + \$20.00 OR

(if you already have your own City of Reno business license – there will be NO \$20 charge)

Your City of Reno Business License Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

TOTAL AMOUNT OF FEES ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Special Requests (need electrical access, side space, etc): _____

I will try to accommodate special requests, but can not guarantee.

Please note: You must provide your own table(s) for the Fair. Also, all participants must provide their own table coverings for their tables. (There are a very few number of mall tables available to use, and if it is physically difficult for you to bring your own tables, please contact me.)