

The Conglomerate

The Monthly Newsletter of the Reno Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

April, 2023



General Meeting

Wed. Apr. 5, 7pm

Baldini's Second Floor

Board Meeting

Wed. Apr. 12, 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 6 PM at the Rock Building, 480 S. Rock Blvd., Sparks, NV.

Annual membership dues: student: \$25, Individual: \$35, and Family: \$50.

Conglomerate 2022

Digital edition: Accessible to members on <https://renogms.org/conglomerate>

Copies at the meeting \$3 each, free to guests.

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On the Road to Montana – Big Sky Country – The Treasure State, Part 1

Cheryl Neary, AFMS President

AFMS Newsletter – April 2023



Planning: August will be here before we know it. So, I started planning my trip to Billings, Montana, for the annual convention, this year hosted by NFMS. . . .

My goal while in Montana is to visit Glacier National Park in the northern portion of Montana; Craters of the Moon in Idaho; Crater Lake in Oregon

History: The area now known as Montana was inhabited over 12,600 years ago by Paleo-Indians (Paleo-Americans). The earliest ancestors of the Native American entered the area now known as Wisconsin during or after the retreat of the last continental glacier in the late Pleistocene period. The Paleo-Indians most likely originated in Asia and traveled across Beringia on a land bridge that connected Russia and Alaska during low sea levels in the Ice Age. During this period, huge animals (now extinct) roamed the land. Paleo-Indians were hunter-gatherers who followed the animal herds for food and other materials.

Thousands of years later, the Crow, Cheyenne, Blackfeet and Shoshone tribes lived in the plains region, hunting buffalo and living in temporary homes - tepees. Kootenai and the Salish lived in the mountains in more permanent homes and were hunter-gatherers.

Today there are eleven tribes that reside in Montana's seven reservations, which is approximately six percent of Montana's population. The tribes celebrate their culture through dance, songs, games, language, and religious ceremonies.

Perhaps you can see if there is a powwow to attend while you are in Montana!

Billigs, cont. from p. 1

During the late 1700s, French fur traders roamed the area for beaver pelts. For several years, the land was claimed by both the French and Spanish. In 1803, the majority of Montana was purchased from the French as part of the Louisiana Purchase. It was during the famous expedition from 1804-1806 that Meriwether Lewis and William Clark ventured into the area with guidance from Sacagawea, as they traveled following the Missouri River.

The area was called Montana from the Spanish word "montaña" which equates to mountainous. Montana has more than 300 peaks with elevations over 9,600 feet above sea level.

Missionaries from the Roman Catholic faith established Saint Mary's Mission in the Bitterroot Valley, thought to be the first permanent settlement in Montana, promoting agriculture and building a sawmill in 1841. In 1846, Fort Benton was established on the Missouri River by the American Fur Trading Company.

With the discovery of gold in 1858, many prospectors found their way to the area. Cattle ranches flourished as the demand for beef in the new mining towns increased during the 1860s. Towns grew rapidly, including Virginia City and Helena. The Bozeman Trail was established as a route for people to take from the Oregon Trail to Virginia City. When the gold rush ended, many people stayed in Montana.

In 1864, the Montana territory was established with its first capital at Bannack. The capital city moved to Virginia City in 1865 and then to Helena in 1875. In the 1880s, railroads crossed Montana. The territory became the 41st state on November 8, 1889.

Hard rock mining began around the late 1880s. Butte became famous with the discovery of silver and copper. Hence the nickname the "Treasure State" for the deposits of copper, gold, and silver. Sapphires were another natural resource mined in Montana, in addition to the precious metals. Today, the state is the world's leading producer of talc, and petroleum is a valuable commodity.

With so many settlers arriving, they threatened the way of life of the native inhabitants. The Indians lost access to their traditional hunting grounds and conflicts grew. In 1876, the Lakota Sioux, Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes banded together and won a short-lived victory over the US Army at the Battle of the Little Bighorn. It was at this battle that General George Custer and the US Army were defeated by the Native Americans led by Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse.

This battle is sometimes called "Custer's Last Stand." If you get a chance, please visit the monument to Crazy Horse. The monument is under construction, but it is very impressive. We stopped there two years ago. The carving is the whole mountain, not a carving in the mountains as Mount Rushmore, another impressive site. The privately held land in the Black Hills in Custer County, South Dakota depicts the Lakota warrior Crazy Horse, riding a horse with his arm stretched pointing to his tribal land.

So, two other interesting facts about the National Parks in Montana: In 1872, Yellowstone National Park was established in southern Montana. In 1910, Glacier National Park was established in northern Montana.

Interestingly to me, in 1914 Montana was one of the states where women won full suffrage rights prior to the national constitutional amendment. Jeannette Rankin led the successful campaign to amend Montana's state constitution. In 1916, she was elected the first woman to serve in national office as a member of the US House of Representatives.

Geography: Montana is bordered on the north by Canada, to the east by both North and South Dakota, and to the south by Wyoming. Idaho borders the southern and western portions of Montana. Montana encompasses 147,000 square miles, making it the fourth largest state in the nation. Imagine fitting all of New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, DC and Virginia in the space! However, the population of the state makes Montana one of the 10 least populated states.

The Rocky Mountains cover the western two-fifths of the state. The mountains are home to Glacier National Park, with glaciers 7,000 plus years old. Montana's highest peak, Granite Peak, is also found in the western portion of the state. The Indians call the Continental Divide the "backbone of the world" with the Continental Divide running along the crests of the Rocky Mountains from Alaska to Mexico. The Great Divide, Continued, p. 3

Billings, cont. from p. 2

appropriately named, divides the waters of the North American continent. There are five continental divides in North America. The most famous Continental Divide of the Americas is also called the Great Divide. It separates the watersheds of the Pacific Ocean from those of the Atlantic Ocean.

The Great Plains region in the eastern section of the state is the remaining three-fifths of the land. The Great Plains Badlands is part of this region, with colorful and oddly shaped rock formations.

To further break down the geography of Montana: there are three main geographic regions. These are known as the Eastern Plains with 21 counties; the Central Front with 14 counties; and the Western Mountain region with 21 counties. The Eastern Plains gives the state the nickname "Big Sky Country," where the sky seems to have no limits. The Central Front is plains surrounded by island mountain ranges. An island range is a mountain range that exists in total or near-total isolation from a larger chain of ranges and sub-ranges. The Western Mountain region is the mountains and valleys of the Rocky Mountains. The south-central portion of the state is home to Yellowstone National Park. In the northwestern corner of the state is Glacier National Park. The eastern most part of the state is Makoshika State Park. The park is located southeast of Glendive and is known for its mysterious badlands formations, which contain dinosaur fossils and rock from the Hell Creek formation. This is Montana's largest state park with over 11,000 acres.

Montana has many rivers and is the only state with river systems that empty into the Hudson Bay, the Pacific Ocean, and the Gulf of Mexico. Do you know which river empties into the Gulf of Mexico?

Billings: Billings, host city for the NFMS/AFMS convention, is in the Central Front, within Yellowstone County. It is Montana's largest city and located in the south-central portion of Montana on the Yellowstone River. "Magic City" is the nickname given to Billings because of its rapid growth as a railroad town. The city was named after Frederick H. Billings, a former Vermonter who was a president of the Northern-Pacific Railroad. Formerly, the Crow people called the land "where they cut wood" because of a sawmill built prior to the railroad by early white settlers. The Cheyenne referred to the area as "sawing place," while the Gros Ventre called it "where they saw lumber."

Billings is almost 3,120 feet above sea level. It lies at the base of the Rimrock Mountains, in the fertile Yellowstone River Valley, surrounded by mountains on three sides and with the Yellowstone River bordering the city to the east.

The mountains shelter the city from most of the severe weather. Blizzard conditions are not uncommon in the spring and fall, when moist air from the Pacific Ocean called "Chinook winds" bring warm temperatures in winter and cooler temperatures in the summer. The spring season has the most unpredictable weather. Thankfully, the convention is being held in the summer season, which is noted to be typically dry with cool nights. The average temperature in August is 72.5 degrees according to: <https://www.city-data.com/us-cities/The-West/BillingsGeography-and-Climate.html>

The area of Billings was once the shore of the Western Interior Seaway, a large inland sea. The ancient sea existed from the late Cretaceous to the Paleocene, a time span of approximately 40 million years. It split the continent of North America into two land masses known as Laramidia to the west and Appalachia to the east. The Seaway was approximately 2500 feet deep, over 2,000 miles long, and 600 miles wide. Paleographic reconstruction of the Western Interior Seaway during the Cretaceous. From: cretaceousatlas.org

Much of the Billings area was carved out by the Yellowstone River and is located in the river valley. As per the National Park Service information on Yellowstone National Park, the name of the river is attributed to the Native Americans in the early 1800's, referring to the yellow sandstone cliffs found along the banks of the river in eastern Montana, hundreds of miles downstream from the Yellowstone Park. I had assumed the river and park were named Yellowstone after the rhyolite lavas that were chemically altered by reactions with steam and hot water to create the vivid pink and yellow colors. I admit I was wrong!

Continued, p. 4

Billings cont. from p3

The headwaters for the Yellowstone River lie outside Yellowstone National Park's southern border in the southern Absaroka Range. The river flows through Paradise Valley and between the Gallatin and the northern Absaroka Mountains as it travels northeast through the state of Montana to its confluence with the Missouri River in North Dakota. From what I read, besides the myriad of wildlife found along the riverbanks, agates are also to be found!

When you attend the convention, be sure to travel around the area of Billings and take in some of the older buildings' construction of sandstone blocks. Most of the sandstone was quarried at the Heffner Stone Quarry.

Plan to come to Billings to share the magic of the convention. Come and experience the continued growth of our organization - the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS)!

New Banking Regulation
Janet Longueira, Treasurer

I have received information from our bank about new regulations. If you write a check, please make it payable to Reno Gem & Mineral Society (not RGMS). I apologize for this inconvenience, but it is a requirement from the bank. Thank you for understanding

Sunshine Report
Joanne Sworthout

If you have a situation for which you could use some support from your RGMS friends, or if you know of someone who could, please get in touch with **Joanne** at sunshine@renogms.org.

Officers' Reports

General Meeting and Board minutes are posted on the bulletin board at the Rock Building monthly. Treasurer's reports are available to any member on request. **Steve Norman**, Secretary; **Janet Longueria**, Treasurer

Education Outreach
Steve Norman

The Reno Gem and Mineral Society Education Outreach program made ten classroom presentations to 202 students. Two classrooms at Triad Charter School, one classroom at Hunter Lake Elementary School special education, first and third grade classes at Natchez, and five classrooms at Lenz Elementary School kindergarten.

Students are encouraged to do well in school and think about exciting science careers. Every student is given a mineral gift, and information is provided to their parents about the Reno Gem and Mineral Society. We support the Nevada Division of Mineral's program on keeping out of mines found in Nevada. I want to thank **Debbie Bush** for her help and **Alan and Bobbi Metzger** for their contributions of nice, polished rocks for the students and teachers. I got a surprise of several boxes of wonderful rocks from **John Peterson** and **Darlene Hirning**. When I provide one of these beautiful rocks to a child, I believe the child is thrilled, and their parents, if they like rocks and minerals at all, are also suitably impressed. It is slow work but helps to establish some interest in earth science hobbies and gives younger families reasons to join the Society.

In Memory of
Drew VanHoven
Theresa Langhans

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of **Drew VanHoven**. Both Drew and his mother were long service members of our Society. Although Drew lived quite a distance from Sparks, he did love to come to our meetings, visit with all of the members, and assisted with running the raffle. Drew is preceded in death by his mother. Rest in Peace, Drew, and may you be surrounded by beautiful rocks!

Membership

Lynda Traves, Director

This picture is my mantra. And, I think for most members it is too. I am thrilled to be part of an organization that is so active in the community. Field trips are starting, the kids' classes are growing, they are learning lots of stuff, the classes are always full, and we have lots of new members. We currently have 290 memberships representing 543 members. Approximately 31 are school aged children, some of which attend the kids' rock classes (kids can start any time).



To pay your membership online or download the membership form, go to: <https://renogms.org/membership-2/>

If you have any questions, please email me at membership@renogms.org

Membership Dues are: Individual: \$35; Family: \$50; and Student: \$25.

Thank you so much. I look forward to helping you and meeting you at the next event.

Welcome the following new members!

Julie Austin

Marianne Bartley and Guillermo Ruiz and Dan Bartley
Sarah and Robert Castellino

Kristen Christiansen

Nina Chase

Stephanie and Olivia Cordovia

Darsho Greene

David and Naomi Heneage

Heidi Kieckbusch

Kerrie Kraff

Marlowe Kulley

Carol and Mike Martini

Phyllis Otto

David John Pigman

Mario Ramos and Leslie Fragoso

Ellen Reed, Jessica Riedel and Tyler Morgan;
Jackson, Waylyn

Joan Reynolds, David Williams and Shelly Reynolds;
Craig Bengé

Joe Roth

Apryl and Elisabeth Stott and Gretchen Stott
Anand Vader

Paula Valentin

Kelly and Eric Verling and Jeremiah Estes and
Victor Verling

Katie and Ryan Welch and Corbin and Graham
Welch

(Apologies in advance for any misspelt/typos in names; advise membership@renogms.org immediately to correct. Thank you)

April Program Notes

Steven Smith, Vice President

RGMS will be having our next general meeting on Wednesday April 5th, 7pm at Baldini's.

RGMS member **Tim Steeper** will be leading a fun program of Rockhound Trivia. Our business meeting will follow. We will also have our wonderful door prize drawings "April: It's Fossils" at the end of the meeting. Doors open at 6pm, so come early and meet our fellow rockhounds. I look forward to seeing you there.

Future Rockhounds of America

Renée Samuels

Calling all kids! Do you like rocks and minerals? Are you curious about how they're made? Would you like to know more about how our fascinating planet works? Come Join us on Saturday, April 8th, from 2:00 to 3:30 pm at the Rock Building for our free Earth Science class. We're having so much fun learning about volcanoes, how mountains are made, weathering, and much more. In April, **Steve Norman** will be teaching us about the layers of the earth, and what happens when they move around. We'll have some fun activities, an art project, and each student gets a rock or mineral specimen to add to, or start, their collection. You can also earn badges just by coming to three classes. Hope to see you there!

Field Trip Director Report

Hilary Loupee and Jim Welker

Hopefully the weather continues to warm up and we can keep our planned field trip schedule. Make sure you are signed up for the RGMS emails so you get the latest info on the field trips. Since the weather is unpredictable this time of year, we will be confirming, cancelling, or rescheduling these early field trips based on the weather through email. We will also provide meet up information through the emails.

We talked about the planned Virginia City trip in the last Conglomerate article. The next planned field trip is to Lovelock. This will be a day trip on April 15th. Our main two spots will be the perlite pit for Apache Tears and rainbow jasper. The perlite pit is a well known spot where you can sift small Apache Tears, but I know of some spots in the area where the Apache Tears get egg sized and there are lots of them. Getting to those places will either require a 4WD rugged vehicle or some walking in the hills, but it's not a far distance. No tools required, this is all surface picking.

The rainbow jasper site is well known with RGMS I'm told, but most members call it picture rhyolite. My geology professor agreed that it was an opaque microcrystalline quartz, which would make it a jasper, but we can have a good discussion if you have other ideas. This is a short distance walk from parking. There are lots of surface chips to pick for tumbling, but if you want some good chunks of it, be prepared to break rocks. A breaker bar and a crack sledge won't go unused here if you are up for using them. Don't forget your eye protection! The area around the rainbow jasper is also full of tumbling rocks like chalcedony and jasper if you want to take a walk. I've also found some dumortierite in the area.



Photo by Hilary Loupee

I'll talk about our fossil trip to Luning in May and our geology excursion to Carson City in the next Conglomerate. The following is a note from **Jim Welker**, one of our past field trip leaders with decades of rockhounding experience, who has graciously offered to lead a few of this year's field trips to spots that he knows way better than I do. I can't wait to learn from him along with all of you and I'm so excited about this field trip! This trip is a long distance, so if you are interested, this should give you some extra time to plan.

Texas Springs Field Trip May 27 – June 3

Time for Texas Springs and I'm still looking for that 20+ pound round pink limb cast. I know it's there, I just need to dig a little more. However, if I do not find that one, there will be lots of smaller pinks and a lot of other colors. This site has great limb casts and with a little bit of work everyone should find a treasure.

This is one of the more remote locations, Southeast of Jackpot, Northeast of Wells. I plan on 9 hours from Reno to the camping site, less if you aren't towing a trailer. There is no cell phone coverage, nor telephone poles. The collecting areas are covered in Juniper trees and sage at an elevation of 5,900 feet. The camping area is a level, open area and 7 ½ miles from the collecting area. There is a nice tent camping area closer to the sites; however, due to road conditions and size rigs, we will camp in the level area. Top off your fuel in Wells, last place for anything. (continued on p.7



Photo by Hilary Loupee

A two-wheel drive vehicle can make the camp site. To the collecting sites, a high-clearance vehicle is required and a 4WD is nice. Hilary made it just fine in a Subaru last year.

Due to dates and location, be prepared for hot weather, cold weather, wind, rain, dust storms or snow. I have seen all within a 10 day period. This is Nevada. Bring buckets for material, you will need shovels, picks and rock hammers. To find great material you will have to dig. Of course, as all trips bring water, food and a first aid kit. Without cell coverage you are a long way from anything. Just ask **Alberta Carter** about the hill named after her.

The first full collecting day will be Saturday May 27th. We will leave camp at 8am each morning. On Sunday May 28th we will have a great potluck at 5:30 pm (time subject to change). Maps to the campsite will be available at the April and May general meetings.

32 Auctions

Hilary Loupee

If you haven't seen the monthly online auctions, you are really missing out. We have some amazing rocks up for bid and all proceeds benefit the building expansion. These have been making about \$2000 a month, so it's an amazing way to help RGMS reach its goals. It takes minutes to sign up to bid. The Saturday sales are also amazing as we put out many more rocks for purchase.

The upcoming auction dates are: (you can't bid until the auction starts)

April 1-7 www.32auctions.com/April23 Saturday Sale April 8th from 11-2 at the shop

May 13-19 www.32auctions.com/May2023 Saturday Sale May 20th from 11-2 at the shop

June 3-9 www.32auctions.com/June23 Saturday Sale June 10th from 11-2 at the shop

July 1-8 www.32auctions.com/July23 Saturday Sale July 8th from 11-2 at the shop

August 12-19 www.32auctions.com/August23 Saturday Sale August 19th from 11-2 at the shop



This auction could be so much bigger and better with your help! If you have any skills, anywhere from cutting slabs, to making cabochons, to wire wrapping a masterpiece, please consider donating to the auction. Finished pieces get a lot of bids! We also need your help at the Saturday sale setting up the tables with more rocks for sale. Please contact Hilary or Steve to get involved.

Jackpot of Gems 2023

Daniel Ellis, Show Chair (Director)

Well September is coming sooner that we think. Once the weather breaks we get busy and BAM spring then summer are gone and we wonder, "What happened to all of our time?"

So Sept 16 and 17 will be here quickly.

At the May meeting the sign up sheets for the events will be at the general meeting for you to look over.

We have 1 person that wants to help run and coordinate the Silent Auction. We can use another set of hands please. It will take a couple of people to make it happen .

Still looking for someone to do the advertising campaign for the show. If you want to have some fun this is good project to work on.

The Kids' Corner is also looking for help. April has projects she cannot make happen by herself.

Mary, our Display Case coordinator will be looking for you to fill up them cases with your work so make sure to sign up.

Thanks

Social Director/JPOG Raffle Chair

Debbie Bush

Our first upcoming social event of the year is the Potluck Picnic:

June 10, 2023 at the Lazy 5 Park
(Sugarloaf Pavilion)
7100 Pyramid Way Sparks
11 am- 4pm

I will have a signup sheet for food starting at the April Meeting. You can sign up to bring side dishes, salads, desserts or drinks. We will be cook-

Spring 2023 Artisan Craft Fair

Theresa Langhans, Coordinator

Time is here for our semi-annual Artisan Craft Fair. I hope that you will visit us, do a little shopping, and support our RGMS members. The show is :

Friday	April 14	10am-6pm
Saturday	April 15	10am-5pm
Sunday	April 16	10am-3pm

We will have almost 20 vendors selling everything from Fairy sticks to beautiful jewelry, stone and wood art, professional award-winning photography, stones and slabs. Shop now for unique items for your Mother's Days gifts. Shop for yourself.

Please assist with advertising and forward the attached postcard to friends, neighbors, work, etc.

Hope to see you there!

ing hamburgers and hotdogs on the grill, starting about 12-12:30. In addition to the hamburgers and hot dogs, we provide plates, silverware and cups for your use. If you miss the meeting (s) and need to let me know you are coming, email me at social@renogms.org.

So far our lineup is as follows:

- Cornhole tournament
- BINGO games
- Great food and friends

RSVP by **June 5th** so I can plan the amounts of hamburgers, hot dogs and place settings needed.

I am very excited to see everyone ---Helpers for the day are always needed. I am looking

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Kids' Corner The Great Basin

Steve Norman & Steve Rose (Retired Geologist)

The Great Basin is a geologic feature that covers an area of some 200,000 square miles and includes much of Nevada, about half of Utah, and smaller parts of Idaho, Oregon, Wyoming, and California. Rain or snowfall stays within the basin or evaporates. The geology of the Great Basin, as seen in Nevada, is found as numerous north-south trending mountain ranges with lowland basins or valleys between them. Nevada has the most mountains of any state, with over 300 given names.

The rocks in the Great Basin of Nevada date from the early Precambrian and are 2.5 billion years old. While what we see today relates mainly to geologic forces in the past 60 million years, there are hundreds of millions of years of the Paleozoic Era when the area was an ocean, for example, with the rocks and fossils within them that tell of a marine environment. The Permian Age (225 MY ago) finds Ichthyosaur fossils at Berlin in central Nevada. The Ichthyosaur is Nevada's state fossil, and the State Park at Berlin is a great place to visit.

About 30 million years ago, plate tectonic movement in the earth's crust caused the area that is now the Great Basin to stretch. This thinning and breaking of the crust resulted in vertical movement on north-south faults. Mountains uplifted and earth blocks dropped down, creating new valleys or basins. Volcanic activity started about 16.5 MY ago and continued until the last 100,000 years, making many of today's landforms. There is some recent volcanic activity from just thousands of years ago.

We live in a dry environment with little surface water in the Great Basin of Nevada. What we do see, for example, Pyramid Lake, Walker Lake, and the Stillwater Marshes are remnants of a large body of water called Lake Lahontan. This lake covered much of Western Nevada during the Pleistocene, when the climate was much wetter than today. These remaining lakes in Western Nevada survive mainly because of the runoff from snowmelt in the Sierra Nevada. Lake Lahontan dried up about 9,000 years ago, leaving a few bodies of water like Pyramid Lake. Think of the Black Rock Desert as a shallow lake; now what was once a lake bottom is a flat, silty, sandy surface, a playa.

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for people who would like to be on the social committee too!

Since I am in charge of the Raffle for Jackpot of Gems show as well as Bingo prizes for the picnic, I will be asking for donations going forward. Homemade jewelry, bolo ties, knives, rock hounding/geology books, nice sized rocks or slabs (polished or not) are wonderful. Some non rock prizes are great as well. For the JPOG raffle we do a few fun-themed baskets that I put together later from donations I collect. Those baskets could include Italian or Mexican fun food items, candies, survival items, and spa/beauty items.

So please, clean out your drawers, closets, garages and lofts---and donate your findings to me for the raffle and I will put them to good use. Thank you!!

Tumbling: Making Shiny Rocks

Alan Metzger

So, you collected rocks with the club but don't have the tie of equipment to polish them. Tumbling is a good start to working your stones. You might find different suppliers but these are the ones I use.

The first thing you need is a tumbler; Harbor Freight has cheap twin barrel machines (get the warranty). The better machines can be found online at Kingsley North or Rock Shed—Lortone 3, 4, 6, or 12 pound barrels. Bigger rocks require bigger barrels. Then I suggest a book "Modern Rock Tumbling" from The Little Red Store (online), very informative. A 5-gallon bucket, ¼ inch screen and 4 1-ounce measuring spoons will be good items from Red Store. Now you want to go online to Rock Shed for your next supplies. You will need grit: coarse, fine, pre-polish, and polish (aluminum oxide). Another necessity is ceramic media, large and small; it really helps in the process. It is helpful to have a utility sink and NEVER wash grit down the house drain system. USE YOUR BUCKET!

Now you start. I fill 1/3 with rocks and 1/3 with media, grit and water to the top of media. You can always have more media and less rocks. Add 1 spoon of coarse grit for every pound the barrel is (3, 4, 6 or 12 pound) . As you learn this amount will decrease. Tumble for 7 to 10 days; remove and wash rocks, media and barrel thoroughly. Use a good brush on the barrel. Then tumble in clean water only (a few drops of Dawn is OK) media and rocks for 1 day. Do the same thing for fine, pre-polish, and polish. WOW! Shiny rocks.

Another method, without media, is using Apache Tears or chalcedony nodules instead of the media. This works well with jaspers or most hard stones, but with softer stones, use small media always.

Obsidian is tough and will require experimentation. I do my obsidian in a vibratory tumbler.

Do NOT MIX hard and soft stones. The soft stones will suffer.

For really rough rocks, tumble with coarse or by themselves until smooth.

VIBRATORY TUMBLERS

My choice is LOT-O Tumblers. I do not consider these tumblers but polishers; they will not remove anything. Put your rocks thru coarse in a rotary tumbler until smooth. I also take cabs, especially unusually shaped cabs, up to 140 and put them in. I have 3 dedicated barrels, one each for fine, re-polish, and polish. This simplifies the cleaning process. You start with FINE, never coarse, fill ½ with small media (I use media broken in with a rotary tumbler) and use about ½ scoop of grit. Add rocks up to 2/3 full. Run for 24 hours, clean thoroughly and put in PRE-POLISH. Repeat process and put in POLISH. Now you are done—3 days!

Apache Tears and other obsidian does great this way as do other softer stones, The LOT-Os are noisy, best used outside when warm.

Feel free to call with questions—Alan Metzger@ (775) 825-9229.

(RGMS) Board Meeting Minutes – February 8, 2023

Summarized for the Conglomerate
Steve Norman, Secretary

Vice President: **Steve Smith** discussed a release of liability draft with a review from a nonprofit lawyer. The liability waiver is for members participating in classrooms, Shop, field trips and Craft Fair vendors. New memberships and renewals would sign the Liability Form as part of the application. **Steve Smith** asked for a motion on the release of liability. **Julie Hilsabeck** motioned to accept the draft proposal and add necessary grammar. **Albie Longueira** seconded, and the motion carried.

The Code of Ethics discussion resolved that Rocky Mountain and the California Federation are similar. A proposal that the RGMS Code of Ethics is a part of renewing membership and for new members. **Todd Iverson** volunteered to write a statement as part of the sign-up form when people attend a Field Trip. **Joanne Sworthout** motioned to have a Code of Ethics as part of signing up for Field Trips. **Sue Webb** seconded, and the motion carried with grammar changes as needed.

The attorney, a specialist in nonprofits, requires a \$1,000 retainer one-time payment to be available for consultations. High West Attorney would attend Board meetings upon request. He is a tax consultant and could help **Will Hitchcock** as required. Dan made a motion to hire High West Attorney to represent the Reno Gem & Mineral Society. **Janet Longueira** seconded, and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: **Janet Longueira** reported that an audit committee reviewed last year's transactions to show income and debt to the proper accounts. She thanked everyone who participated.

Past President: **Tom Nichols**, as acting Tech Chair, updated the website's front page to include the next Jackpot of Gems Show date, the Craft Fair dates, 32 Auction dates, and Junior Rockhounds. Julie would like new photos of the Shop with the latest equipment to update the website.

New Business: **Joanne Sworthout** thanked **Steve Norman** and **Debbie Bush** for their education presentation to the Society at the General Meeting.

President: **Dean Sizemore** noted the Amazon Charity Smile program is discontinued.

Social Media: Director **Sven Sander** reports Facebook with 230 new comments with 10,400 views—Facebook Page with 139 users and 2,000 likes.

Jackpot of Gems: Director **Dan Ellis** reports contracts sent out to vendors by **Terry Bush**, the Dealer Chair. Volunteer positions for the Show are Public Relations and Silent Auction Chair. **Lynda Traves** and **April Young** will help out with the Silent Auction.

Craft Fair: **Theresa Langhans** has dates for Craft Fair on April 14, 15, and 16 and November 10, 11, and 12.

Social: **Debbie Bush** announced the annual picnic at the Lazy Five Park for Saturday, June 10, 2023.

School: Director **Julie Hilsabeck** has intermediate Lapidary making inside curves using a wheel with overlapping sandpaper.

Shop: Director **Patrick Davis** is working on one machine with a belt problem. Patrick noted that the equipment sale is on March 4 from 10-2 PM. The building expansion project has had trash removed, and many

Continued on p.12

jobs are available for any talent walking or sitting. Patrick used the ramp for a person in a wheelchair, and it worked okay. The new building will be compliant with people with disabilities.

Facility Director: **Terry Bush** recertified fire extinguishers.

Membership: Director **Lynda Traves** has updated the roster with 200 memberships accounting for 376 members. Members have until March to submit payment, or their membership ends.

Field Trip/Building: **Hilary Loupee** was absent due to enrolling in a Geology class and had **Todd Iverson** fill in. Todd relayed that Hilary proposed UV lights purchased last month. UV lights use on field trips and for the 32 Auction to appreciate fluorescence minerals better. The previous 32 Auction sold fluorescent materials at \$400 in just ten minutes. The proposal is for a set of UV portable flashlights using long, medium, and short waves, costing \$400. Steve Norman pointed out that medium-range UV can give people a quick sunburn, and a short wave is germicidal. UV lights used judiciously are no problem, but safety is an issue with medium and short-wave lights. **Steve Smith** made a motion to approve the UV lights purchase. **Julie Hilsabeck** seconded, and the motion carried. The second proposal by Todd was for purchasing AED heart stimulators in an emergency at the Shop or on a field trip. An automated external defibrillator (AED) is a medical device designed to analyze the heart rhythm and deliver an electric shock to victims of ventricular fibrillation to restore the heart rhythm to normal. According to **Spencer Ennis**, safety officer, the AED machines are on 35-week backorder. Saint Mary's hospital may be a contact point for information regarding the machine. An appropriate machine would cost \$750. **Steve Smith** made a motion to purchase an AED machine. **Sue Webb** seconded, and the motion carried. Todd reviewed the Field trip schedule starting in April with **Steve Smith** leading a group to Wonderstone Mountain near Fallon, set for March 25. Field trip on April 2 to Virginia City, finding quartz crystal and metal detecting. April 15 Lovelock area (may reschedule with 32 Auction); the last three led by **Jim Welker** May 28 to June 3 in Texas Springs, Jul 1-5 Austin, and Oct 7-10 to Coaldale in the Monty Christo area. Hilary plans a safety bag taken on all field trips with gloves and safety glasses and will use a business card to purchase from the Field Trip budget.

Conglomerate: **Sue Webb** needs articles due by the 15th of the month.

Volunteer: Director **Wendy Kazas** will volunteer with some parents to help label rock gifts used at school presentations. This Saturday, **April Young** and **Lynda Traves** volunteered to help do light housekeeping in the building. There are volunteer positions open for American Lands Association Director, Public Relations Manager, Used Equipment Sales Manager, Silent Auction coordinator, Tech Advisor, and help with the 32 Auction. Volunteer hours need to be submitted as soon as possible.

Security: Director **Marty Hagans** will work with **Patrick Davis** on Closed Circuit Television—next month to determine costs depending on the building plans

The Rock Building: LLC Director **Linda Johnston** has financial reports for the Quarter that need board approval when reviewed. **Julie Hilsabeck** motioned to approve the financial statements, and **Robyn Howard** seconded. The motion carried.

Sunshine: **Joanne Sworhout** reports that Ollie is recovering. Send her the names of anyone needing some care.

Safety: **Spencer Ennis** has inventoried materials in the Shop and will build Safety Data Sheets as necessary. Spencer has checked into a CPR class for interested people, and charges vary with the American Heart Association and the Red Cross. The President motioned to table the discussion until more information is gathered and to consider what is needed.

New Business: **Denise Sizemore** volunteered to be an At Large Board member. **Steve Smith** motioned to approve Denise as an At Large Board member. **April Young** seconded, and the motion carried.

Adjournment: 8:25 PM

(RGMS) Board Meeting Minutes – January 11, 2023

**Summarized for the Conglomerate
Steve Norman, Secretary**

Treasurer's Report: **Janet Longueira** reviewed income and expenses from 2021 and 2022 to understand where expenses and income vary. Next month will be a regular budget—a motion to accept the comparison report by **Steve Smith**. **Patrick Davis** seconded, and the motion carried. An Audit Committee was named: **Dean, Jim Welker, Tom Nichols, Janet Longueira, Nancy** from Intuit QuickBooks subject matter expert, and **Lori Connel**. They will set up a date and time to meet.

Social Media: Director **Sven Sander** reports an updated E-blast list of old and new members that removes 2020 members. Currently, about 1,900 people are receiving E-blasts.

President: **Dean Sizemore** reminded board members at large to regularly attend as it is appreciated, and the Society needs input from an experienced group of people.

Library: **April Young** reports 70% complete on inventory. The cabinets are updated. April could use assistance on Monday nights during Open House.

School: Director **Julie Hilsabeck** received the President's award for 2022. Julie is starting intermediate Lapidary this month for instructing on inside curves and free-form cabochons.

Shop: Director **Patrick Davis** working with **Eric Lundin**, has moved the trim saws to a venting hood to help alleviate the airborne silicates during sawing. Class time on Lapidary machines is not a problem for silicate exposure. New signs will encourage safety while using the equipment. A team has formed to work on this problem, including **Eric Lundin, Steve Smith, Patrick, and Julie Hilsabeck**.

Building Expansion: **Patrick Davis** reports automatic lights that turn on to help with safety and save energy. A pre-meeting with the City of Sparks allows builders to find and resolve problems before the building Code meeting. Some areas within the building need to be upgraded to be within the building code.

Membership: Director **Lynda Traves** reports RGMS with 119 members totaling 233 members. Lynda states that renewals are in progress and to submit them as soon as possible. Members have until March to submit payment, or their membership ends.

Field Trip/Building: **Hilary Loupee** plans safety items for field trips, including safety glasses, gloves, a first aid kit, and a snake bite kit.

32 Auction: Hillary encourages people to participate in the building fund by donating to the monthly online event.

Conglomerate/CFMS: **Sue Webb** reminded the Board that articles are due for the newsletter by the 15th of the month. There is no news from the California Federation.

Volunteer: Director **Wendy Gum** has developed a sign-up sheet for housekeeping duties in the classrooms, bathrooms, and shop. The schedule is for several volunteers to work a few hours a month to keep the facility tidy. There remains a need for a new American Lands Association Director, Public Relations Manager, Used Equipment Manager, Silent Auction manager, Tech Advisor, and help with the 32 Auction. Volunteer hours need to be submitted as soon as possible.

Sunshine: Director **Joanne Sworthout** sent **Rob Kendrick** and his family a sympathy card.

Safety: **Spencer Ennis** has produced a Safety Data Sheet using OSHA guidelines to plan for problems at the building site. The sheets set up plans for responding to safety issues.

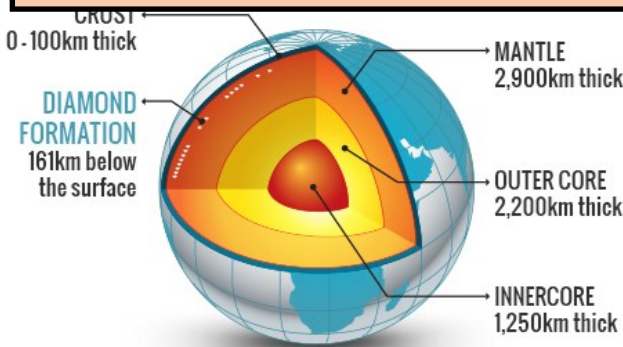
Education Outreach: **Steve Norman** reviewed January's monthly Future Rock Hounds of America, class. **Renée Samuels** and **April Young** provide artistic craftsmanship for the students. Classroom presentation at the School district continues for education outreach. (Continued p. 14)

(continued from p. 13)

Vice President: Steve Smith has renewed the contract with Baldini's Sports Casino for monthly meetings. The cost is \$2,344 for the year, allowing people to attend meetings and a place to park. A permanent sign for the Rock Building was approved by the City of Sparks and installed soon. Steve Smith is acquiring a visible address for the Rock Building near the front door for improved visibility.

New Business: Question about bringing a guest on a field trip. Motion tabled for further review once insurance liability issues are determined.

New Earth Core Found From Engaget via Webb Varnum



Researchers are still discovering more about [the Earth's center](#). A team at Australian National University (ANU) has [found evidence](#) of a new layer to the planet sitting within the inner core. This "innermost inner core" is an iron-nickel alloy ball that, as professor Hrvoje Tkalčić explains, is a "fossilized record" of Earth's ancient history. Until now, science had only recognized four layers (crust, mantle, outer core and inner core).

The scientists found the 'hidden' core by studying seismic waves that traveled back and forth across the

Earth's entire diameter up to five times — previous studies only looked at single bounces. The earthquake waves probed places near the center at angles that suggested a different crystalline structure inside the innermost layer. Effectively, the alloy is skewing the travel times for the waves as they pass through.

Source: [https://www.engadget.com/earth-new-layer-innermost-inner-core-discovery-170411286.html#:~:text=Researchers%20are%20still%20discovering%20more%20about%20the%](https://www.engadget.com/earth-new-layer-innermost-inner-core-discovery-170411286.html#:~:text=Researchers%20are%20still%20discovering%20more%20about%20the%20)



Classes Offered by RGMS

This is a general listing of RGMS classes that are typically offered. For specific dates, consult the calendar on the Website or talk to the school director at the General Meeting or email at <school@renogms.org>.

Open House

- Advanced Silver Fabrication
- Basics of Slab Saw Use
- Beading/Bead Weaving
- Beginning Lapidary
- Beginning Silver Fabrication
- Casting
- Cold Connections
- Etching on Copper
- Intermediate Lapidary
- Jewelry 101
- Lost Wax Carving for Casting
- Make Your Own Ear Wires
- Mineral Identification
- Silver Crocheting
- Silver Chain Making
- Tumbling
- Wire Wrapping/Weaving

- Enameling (future)
- Faceting (future)
- Intarsia (future)

Take a few minutes and check out the *CFMS Newsletter* for April. Just click on <http://www.cfmsinc.org> and find the newsletter in the list on the left. Click on the link.

CFMS/AFMS Shows April 2023

Additional information is available on the CFMS website, cfmsinc.org/shows

April 1-2, 2023 0 Vista, CA
Vista Gem and Mineral Society
Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum,
2040 N. Santa Fe Ave., Vista CA
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Website: <https://vistarocks.org>

April 8-9, 2023 – Mariposa, CA
Mariposa County Fairgrounds, 5007
Fairgrounds Rd., Mariposa, CA
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Website: <http://mariposagemclub.org>

April 15-16, 2023 – Placerville, CA
El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society
El Dorado County Fairgrounds,
100 Placerville Dr., Placerville CA
Contact: office@edcmgs.org

April 22-23, 2023 – Thousand Oaks, CA
Conejo Gem & Mineral Club Borchard Park
190 N. Reino Rd., Thousand Oaks, CA
Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: conejogemandmineral@gmail.com
Website: <https://cgamc.org>

April 29-30, 2023 – Anaheim, CA
Anaheim Searchers Gem & Mineral Society
Brookhurst Community Center
2271 W. Crescent Ave., Anaheim, CA
Contact Nancybird68@gmail.com
Website: <https://www.searchersrocks.org>

April 29-30, 2023 – Santa Cruz, CA
Santa Cruz Mineral and Gem Society
Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium
307 Church Street, Santa Cruz, CA
Contact: scruzmgms@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.scrockngem.org>

June 23-25—Lodi, CA
California Federation of Gem and Mineral Societies
Grape and Harvest Festival Grounds, Lodi, CA
Contact Bob Rush, rocksbob@sbcglopbal.net



Officers

President:	Dean Sizemore	President@renogms.org
Vice President:	Steven Smith	Vicepresident@renogms.org
Secretary:	Steve Norman	secretary@renogms.org
Asst. Secretary:	Sue Webb	assistantsecretary@renogms.org
Treasurer:	Janet Longueira	treasurer@renogms.org
Asst. Treasurer:	Robyn Howard	assistanttreasurer@renogms.org
Past President	Tom Nichols	pastpresident@renogms.org

Board Members at Large

Lori Connel	Albie Longueira	Tim Steeper
Stephanie Leonard	Jim Wellker	Denise Sizemore
Theresa Langhans		

Commission Directors

ALAA rep		alaa@renogms.org
Bulletin Editor:	Suzanne Webb	conglomerate@renogms.org
Ass't Editor	Karen Boldi	
CFMS & AFMS	Sue Webb	cfms@renogms.org
Compliance Officer	Ana John	
Craft Fairs	Theresa Langhans	craftfair@renogms.org
Door Prize Coordinator	Denise Sizemore	doorprizes@renogms.org
Facility	Terry Bush	maintenance@renogms.org
Facebook	Sven-Erik Sander	socialmedia@renogms.org
Field Trips:	Hilary Loupee et al	fieldtrip@renogms.org
Historian:	Philipp Weirauch	historian@renogms.org
Jackpot of Gems	Daniel Ellis	jpog@renogms.org
Ass't JPOG	Steve Norman	
Librarian	April Young	library@renogms.org
LLC Manager	Linda Johnston	llc@renogms.org
Membership:	Lynda Traves	membership@renogms.org
Photographer:	Steven Smith	photographer@renogms.org
Public Relations:	Available	publicity@renogms.org
School:	Julie Hilsabeck	school@renogms.org
Safety Coordiinator	Spencer Ennis	
Security	Marty Hagans	security@renogms.org
Shop:	Patrick Davis	
Social:	Debbie Bush	social@renogms.org
Sunshine:	Joanne Sworthout	sunshine@renogms.org
Tech Director	Available	tech@renogms.org
Volunteers	Wendy Kazas	volunteers@renogms.org

Volunteer Page

A new feature in the *Conglomerate*, this space will feature those members who are not officers or directors but who regularly volunteer their time to help RGMS function in a number of different and valuable ways, or sometimes in addition to serving as an officer or director. Please thank them for their service if you see them at the Rock Building or at the meeting. You will notice that some members serve in more than one capacity—for example, Steve Norman has 3 jobs—count ‘em. A number of others are doing 2. Think you might find time to do just one job? There are several available.

Used Equip,Sale Coord.	Patrick Davis & Committee
Gen. Mtg. Guest Greeter	Joanne Sworthout
Gen. Mtg Door Prize Coord	Denise Sizemore,
Assistant Door Prize Coord.	Lori Connel
Educational Outreach	Steve Norman
Future Rockhounds Advisor	Steve Norman
JPOG Silent Auction	Available
Facility Expansion	Patrick Davis
JPOG Dealer Chair	Terry Bush
Safety Officer	Spencer Ennis

Instructors (Alphabetical by class)

<i>Bead weaving:</i>	Sue Webb
<i>Casting:</i>	Spencer Ennis
<i>Etching</i>	Irene Comstock
<i>Jewelry 101 & Cold Connections</i>	Robyn Howard
<i>Lapidary</i>	Julie Hilsabeck
	Barbara Hartman
<i>Lost Wax Carving</i>	Tim Steeper
<i>Mineral ID</i>	Webb Varnum
<i>Silver Fabrication (Adv.)</i>	Jill Atkins
<i>Silver Fabrication (Beg.)</i>	Spencer Ennis
<i>Slab saw</i>	Patrick Davis
<i>Tumbling</i>	Janet & Albie Longueira
<i>Wire Art</i>	Ginger Ragazzi

CAMP PARADISE

Rustic camp setting in the foothills of California

August 20 - September 2, 2023

Must be a member of a gem club

Lodging

- *Men's dorm*
- *women's dorm*
- *couples dorm*
- *RV sites*
- *cabins*

**Camp Paradise is
in the Plumas
National Forest
near Clipper Mills,
California**

Classes Available

- Basic Silversmithing
- Continuing Silversmithing
- Enameling
- Wire Wrap
- Faceting
- Casting
- Dichroic Glass
- Hard and Soft Stone
Carving
- Lapidary
- Intarsia

**One or Two Week Classes
\$500.00 Per Week**

Cost includes room and meals

To register go to CFMS.org, scroll to Camp Paradise and click on registration

Accommodations:(Circle one). DORM: Couples Women Men Cabin. RV Space

Who would you like to room with if possible? _____ .Use a C-Pap Machine?
___yes___no

Dietary Constraints: ___Food. ___Diabetic. ___Vegetarian ___Other. (please explain)

Due to the lack of dietary knowledge and various interpretations of different needs, we ask that you bring your special food items, and we will do our best to prepare them for you

Additional things you should know:

Animals will be allowed in the RV area only and must be kept on a leash at all times and debris picked up after. Any violations could result in adherence to the Camp Paradise No Pet Rule.

By attending this activity, you are giving your consent for CFMS, to make photographs, videotapes, films, email, or other representations of you. I hereby grant CFMS unrestricted right to copyright any of the above-mentioned containing images of me as well as the unrestricted right to me and reuse them with the caption information, in whole or in part. These rights include, but are not limited to the right to publish, copy, distribute, alter, license, and publicly display these materials and images for editorial, trade, marketing and the advertising purposes.

_____ Signature



RENO GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

480 S. Rock Blvd.
Sparks, NV 89431

SPRING 2023 CRAFT FAIR RESERVATION

The Craft Fair will be held April 14, 15, 16, 2023 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, although, 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: _____

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)

Yes! I want to donate to the Reno Gem and Mineral Society	Date: _____
--	-------------

DONOR NAME: _____	GENERAL FUND:	\$ _____.
ADDRESS: _____	SCHOLARSHIP FUND:	\$ _____.
_____	CAPITAL CAMPAIGN (Classroom Expansion):	\$ _____.
PHONE: _____	IN-KIND DONATION DESCRIPTION:	

Reno Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
 480 S. Rock Boulevard
 Sparks, NV 89431

(Market Value): \$ _____
 TOTAL: \$ _____

Reno Gem and Mineral Society is a 501(c)3 educational non-profit and as such all donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. No goods or services were received in exchange for your donation.

Yes! I want to donate to the Reno Gem and Mineral Society	Date: _____
--	-------------

DONOR NAME: _____	GENERAL FUND:	\$ _____.
ADDRESS: _____	SCHOLARSHIP FUND:	\$ _____.
_____	CAPITAL CAMPAIGN (Classroom Expansion):	\$ _____.
PHONE: _____	IN-KIND DONATION DESCRIPTION:	

Reno Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
 480 S. Rock Boulevard
 Sparks, NV 89431

(Market Value): \$ _____
 TOTAL: \$ _____

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