



The Conglomerate

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

August 2022

General Meeting

Wed. Aug. 3, 7pm

Baldini's Second Floor

Board Meeting

Wed. Aug. 10, 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: free to members.

Paper version, \$30 paid in advance.

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

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Important Message about Mailed Newsletters

Beginning with the January Conglomerate, the Reno Gem and Mineral Society is going paperless, as have many other organizations. This change will affect primarily those members who have opted to pay for a paper copy to be sent by postal mail. That option will no longer be available as of January. You may have noted that stamp prices recently increased 2 cents, and it now costs 60 cents to mail a first class letter. Postage for mailed newsletter copies has also gone up (\$0.84). Members who do not have digital access via phone or computer will need to acquire newsletters at the monthly general meetings for \$3 or by using a computer at a local library, or by asking a friend or family member to print one for them. Phone access and library access will also require establishing an email account, but those can be had for free from Google or Yahoo. This change will not affect distribution of The Conglomerate for the rest of 2022. Copies will continue to be mailed throughout 2022 to those who have paid for them.

Board Meeting Summary, June, 2022

Steve Norman, Secretary

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

President: **Dean Sizemore** convened the Board for a tour of the classroom and storage expansion project and to view Aces Motorcycle Shop's new accommodations. **Patrick Davis** led the tour and answered questions.

Treasurer's Report: **Robyn Howard** reviewed the Profit and Loss Statement for May 2022 showing a \$2,590 Total Class

Fees income, Total membership income of \$490 with Total Revenue of \$8,915, and shop expense at \$506. The Statement of Financial Position as of May 31, 2022, shows a total bank account of \$99,332.

Social Media: Facebook usage is stable and **Sven Sander** reminded everyone to post on Facebook to keep it current, active, and growing. Sven reminded everyone that Facebook Group is not the place to make sales of merchandise.

CFMS & Conglomerate: Director **Suzanne Webb** attended Calif. Federation Mineral Society meeting. She attended the directors meeting. **Sue (2021)**, **Jennifer Rhodes (2019)**, and **Heidi Hall (2019)** have all received the CFMS Golden Bear award.

School: Director **Julie Hilsabeck** reported that a few years back there were 6 classes offered by the Society and now we have 11 along with expanded hours. Great job Julie and her team of instructors!

Education Outreach: **Steve Norman** reports the Future Rock Hounds is off for the summer to resume on October 22, 2022. The 2022 Scholarship has been awarded.

Volunteers & Show: Director **Terry Bush** reviewed volunteer positions for a Building Manager to handle the building that the tenants use, and a Manager for the shop and classrooms that the Society's membership uses. Lots of positions need help; please contact Terry if you can help in any way.

Sunshine: **Joanne Sworthout** Director reported that **Vance Osborn, Susanne Simpkins, Hillary Looper Iverson, Lynn Smith, and Jennifer Rhodes** could use some caring thoughts and communication to let them know that we are thinking about them. Joanne can be reached at sunshine@rgms.org for anyone who knows of someone who needs some special care.

Membership: Director **Janet Longueira** reports RGMS has 376 memberships adding up to 704 members.

American Land Association: **Al Bolshazy** reported that the 1872 Mining Law is being reviewed in Congress. This has implications for the nation's rare earth minerals that may affect federal lands. Al will keep the Society posted.

Adjourned: 8:50 PM

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; **Robyn Howard**, Treasurer.

2022 Jackpot of Gems Annual Vendor Potluck Denise Sizemore, Social Director

Come join us in welcoming this year's Jackpot of Gems Vendors to Reno Gem and Mineral Society's version of a good ole' fashion potluck: Friday, September 9th with mingling hour from 5- 6 pm and Potluck starting at 6 pm. This will be at the Rock Building, 480 S. Rock Blvd.

We will also have leftovers for the volunteers on Sunday, Sept. 11th after all is cleaned up at the Convention Center—usually about 6pm.

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

Please *email* RSVP by September 1st to Denise at: social.renogms.org with what you are bringing and how many will be attending so I can have the room setup appropriately.

Thank you.

Field Trips
Important: August Heat

August is just too darn hot to schedule field trips. But if folks want to get together informally to go out, please take plenty of water, use your sun-screen, and wear a hat. Remember, safety first.

Eric Fendelander, Field Trip Director (303)725-3040 cell

Education Outreach
Steve Norman

Education Outreach went to the Nugget Casino on July 7, 2022, to make Earth Science presentations to the MENSA organization where about 36 children formed into study groups. There were two sets of young children from 4 to 6 and 7 to 12 years old. Many students were precocious and bright. I had an interesting conversation with a 10-year-old on the originations of minerals from the Sun. Each presentation lasts an hour with a mineral gift and information to take to their parents about the Reno Gem and Mineral Society. We get support from the Nevada Division of Mineral with stickers, pencils, and brochures that explain to parents how to keep safe in the great outdoors of Nevada.

August Meeting Announcement
Steven Smith, Vice President

Please plan to join us for our next General meeting Wednesday, August 3rd at 7pm. We will hear a presentation from RGMS member **Gary Atkins** on survival skills and equipment that can assist you in times of emergency. Please also sign up to work at the Jack Pot of Gems Show and receive your one-of-a-kind RGMS shirt and free admission to the show. This is RGMS's main fundraiser, and it is a great family event. Our **August door prize theme** will be "Northern Nevada Finds ". Please plan to attend this important meeting and support your RGMS.

Membership
Janet Longueira, Director

RGMS now has 744 members! If you know someone who would like to join our Society, please direct them to our website, RenoGMS.org/membership. Dues for July-Dec are prorated; \$18 for an individual, \$25 family. We want to welcome all of the members who have joined us recently:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Fabiola Aguilar | Matt & Yvonne Griffith |
| Katie & Doug Allen and Jessica | Marlene Hild |
| Nikki Baptista | Kayci Itza |
| Cal Benbow | Heather Johnson |
| Charlene Boegle | Sandra Parish and Kaitlyn, Tyler, Krysten & Justin |
| Darcy Church | Tamara Rudd |
| Nova & Nick Coffron and Teddy | Liisa, Julie and Glenn Small |
| Dominic & Janine Davenport and Isaiah Epperson | Kyle Vonderwerth |
| Dakota Freshman | Mollie Watson |
| And our newest renewal | Susan Iuppa |

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.

Jackpot of Gems
Daniel Ellis, Show Chair

Hello everyone. Hope you all have enjoyed the warm weather and have stayed safe out looking for the one "Big" rock.

Four weeks, yes 4 weeks till our show. Please be sure to hit the sign up sheets to do your part for us. Those who work will get the 2022 t-shirt and get in free to look for more rocks you need .

The raffle chair will be accepting donations for the drawing and will sell you ticket at the general meeting. Be sure to stop by and do help us out.

We have a truck person so unless you want to wrestle Dean you just need to help us load and set up please. Those sign up sheets will be at the meeting also.

So to recap. Loading the truck will be Sept 7th at the Rock building starting at 5 PM.

Set up is Friday the 9th at 7 AM at the Reno Convention Center across the street from the Atlantis. That same night is the POT LUCK at 5 or so PM.

The show is Sat and Sunday. We break it down at 4 PM on Sunday then unload it back at the Rock building then finish off the leftovers from Friday. Done till next year..

Amazon Smile
Robyn Howard, Treasurer

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Full-Body Jade Suit
D. W. Webb Varnum



Image: Wikipedia

Liu Sheagu's suit was made with 2498 pieces of polished jade and stitched with 1.1 Kg of pure gold. Attempts to preserve the body reflect the belief that the earthly aspect of the soul continues to dwell in the body after death. Jade was believed to possess magical properties that would protect the body from decay and ward off evil spirits. Special ear, eye, nose and mouth pieces helped to keep the evil out. The casket was also made of jade with gold nails. It took up to 10 years to construct this burial suit.

Sources: Wikipedia

- <https://depts.washington.edu/chinaciv/archae/2thgt15.htm>
- <https://death.io/jade-burial-suits/>



Image: Xin.xhangguo wenwu illustration 96

Texas Springs Field Trip
Hilary Loupee, RGMS Board Member at Large

When some of us heard that RGMS was cancelling the Texas Springs trip due to cost, we were heartbroken. I've been wanting to go on this trip for the last 5 years, but because of the distance and part of the trip being during the work week, I'd never been able to make it. Gas prices are exorbitant right now, but a few of us talked it over and decided to make the trip happen by carpooling. Eric Fendelander was still up for leading the trip out, so the trip was back on!

In the end, only 7 of us went. We had 3 hotel rooms in Jackpot since Eric kept warning us about the rattlesnakes near the dig site. We took 3 vehicles. Gas in Eric's truck ran about \$100 each way, which wasn't bad to split. With another person or two, it would be even cheaper. The ride out was pleasant and we stumbled upon the cutest little restaurant called the Hide-A-Way Steakhouse in Battle Mountain right off the interstate, with bistro quality food at great prices. Gas was only \$5.15/\$5.49 at the Maverik right across the street as well.

Jackpot was an interesting town. It's apparently where all of Idaho comes to play. So much so that local time in Jackpot is mountain standard time. There isn't much there. There's a general store with some basic groceries and supplies, one gas station, about 4 casino hotels, a cannabis shop, and a golf course. It was a strange combination. What was even more surprising was how busy the town was. All of the restaurants were associated with Cactus Pete's and there was a wait at all of them. There is a quick food stop called Nosh, a sit down casual dining restaurant called the Desert Room, and a very fancy and very expensive restaurant called 36 Steak & Seafood that required advanced reservations. There also appeared to be a large buffet, but it was closed and looked to have been closed for a while. The casino was packed with people waiting to get on machines. Just a typical Friday night in Jackpot!

After having dinner together and resting for the night we had breakfast and hit the road at 7am. It's nearly an hour and a half of dirt roads to get to the dig site, which is roughly SE from Jackpot. There is also a southern entrance to the area if you are coming from the south and plan to camp out there. The roads are good, hard, dirt roads and we had little trouble navigating them in SUVs and trucks. A car could probably handle it, but I would say 4WD is preferred. There was a good camping spot only about a mile or so before the dig spot, so I think I will be doing that next time.

We spotted some dig holes and knew we had arrived. Everyone got out and found their spots to start digging. As some of you know, I had a bit of an accident and partially severed a finger and have doctor's orders "not to go digging". I thought this would be okay as I was told it was soft dirt and was very dismayed to find a deep layer of hard "Nevada concrete" between me and my pink limb casts. This took most of the morning to get through. By the afternoon though I was finally finding the pink stuff. In Texas Springs, the pink limb casts appear in a soft layer of dirt about 10" thick. The depth varies in different places. It's typically about 4-5 feet down, but you might get lucky and find it closer to the surface. We found that the dirt was very hard everywhere besides the loose



Hilary (front) Eric (middle)

surface dirt and the limb cast layer. Heavy duty shovels and tools required! You want to dig down to the soft layer and then scrape into it as far as you can go. We had some very deep holes by the end of the day and some big overhangs. For those of you who want to visit, but cannot dig, there was some smaller surface material and definitely the chance to find a limb cast or two that someone else chucked out of their hole accidentally. It isn't always obvious what is a limb cast and what is a rock when it's covered in a thick layer of dirt. By 6:00, we all had some nice stuff and decided to head back to Jackpot. A shower was a nice treat in the middle of a rockhounding weekend. We had a late dinner over at Cactus Pete's and a good sleep at the hotel.

We stayed at the West Star because it was dog-friendly, but it turned out to be a decent hotel with a good free continental breakfast in the morning. Our group split up at this point. Only Eric, my stepdaughter, and myself headed back out to the dig site for the morning. We drove around a bit and explored some other dig sites in the area. One site further up the hill looked very old and had cans from many decades ago. There were a lot of good tailings, but it was a bit overgrown. We hiked all through it and discovered holes everywhere. I

will say that I never saw or heard a single rattlesnake even in the thick brush. We also discovered another area dense with big rocks, but there were also a lot of dig holes and chips of pink all over. I think I would find that difficult to work in, but obviously people have found good stuff to make that many holes. Eric stumbled upon a bird's nest in that area and had a very large momma bird land on his head with squawking and flapping to let him know to clear out!

We spent our last couple of hours digging in our old holes and found more good material. We left around lunchtime to have a more leisurely drive back to Reno. Overall, it was a great trip. It cost about \$200 per person when riding two to a car and two to a hotel room. Tent camping would cut this in half and since I didn't see any snakes, I think I will camp the next time I get the opportunity to visit. When I got home,

I discovered about half of the material collected by my family was just plain old Leaverite, so I am hoping to get back sooner rather than later. There is some chatter from the people that wanted to go but couldn't make this trip about another trip late summer/early fall when it is cooler, so if you are interested, reach out to one of the field trip leaders. We love to see everyone out there getting dirty!



Photos: Hilary Loupee

Photos: Hilary Loupee

Carat, Caret, Karat, Carrot*—What's the difference?***Suzanne Webb, Conglomerate Editor***

All four of these words are often pronounced the same: [represented ka rət in phonetic symbols, but *kah rut* in most US dialects], but they have vastly different meanings. Probably the most familiar is *carrot* which, of course, refers to the humble vegetable lauded for its abundant supply of vitamin A, which benefits our eyesight and which is prized by Bugs Bunny.

Next, many of us prize gold, the precious metal found in substantial amounts in California's river gravels and in Nevada's hills. Gold is measured by its purity—or "fineness"—which is stated in terms of *karat* to show how much pure gold and how much alloy are in a particular piece of metal: 14 karat (or kt), 18 kt, 24 kt—or "pure" gold. The alloy helps the gold to maintain a shape in which it has been wrought or cast. Pure gold is so soft it can be hammered into millimeters-thin sheets of gold leaf, as 17th century poet John Donne said, "like gold to airy thinness beat." Thus, 14 kt gold has 10 parts of alloy metal such as zinc, copper or, perhaps, tin, and 18 kt gold has only 6 parts of alloy. 22 kt gold is rarely found these days—too soft. (In Europe, *karat* is often spelled with a *c*—*carat*, which can lead to confusion with the next homophone we will discuss, *carat*.)

Carat refers to the weight of a gem stone, i. e. a one-carat diamond, a 13 carat sapphire, and so on. Carat weight is also sometimes designated as "points." So, a quarter-carat stone could be said to have 25 points. *Points* is most often used for very tiny stones, as with "a dozen 8-point diamonds surround the watch face."

In an entirely different domain, we find *caret*. (That domain is my domain—editing.) I might use a *caret* when I edit someone's article if I think a word or phrase has been left out. A caret is shaped like the leading edge of an arrow turned 90 degrees--^ . If space is an issue, a caret may be accompanied by a line reaching from the tip of the "arrow" to a more spacious location such as a margin. The caret can be reversed to show that something missing is to be found below. What a difference a single letter makes. Exchange the a and the e, and you have vastly different contexts.

*Inspired by and expanded upon an award-winning article in the March 2021 *Breccia*, the newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley GMS. In future issues look for an article on Silicate, silicon, silicone, silica

School Report

No school report was submitted. For information on activities, please go to the website: renogms.org/our-calendar.



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CFMS & AFMS Shows, 2022

Covid is still not over! Please check to be sure the show is happening. For hours and other additional information go to cfmsinc.org/shows.

2022 CFMS Shows**August 5-7, 2022, Nipomo, CA**

Orcutt Mineral Society

Nipomo High School, 525 N. Thompson Ave., Nipomo, CA 93444 Contact: nipomocowgirl55@yahoo.com

August 6-7, 2022, Roseville, CA

Roseville Rock Rollers Gem and Mineral Society @the Grounds, Roebbelen Event Center, 700 Event Center Dr., Roseville, CA 95678 Contact email: gloriarosevillerockrollers@gmail.com

August 20-21, 2022 – Arcadia, CA

Pasadena Lapidary Society

Arcadia Masonic Center, 50 W. Duarte Rd., Arcadia Contact: Ellen Ferrell 1-727-512-0381 Email: ellenbf2007@aol.com

August 20-21, 2022 – Tehachapi, CA

Tehachapi Valley Gem and Mineral Show

500 East "F" Street, Tehachapi, CA

Contact: email: getback@csurfers.net

September 10-11, 2022, Reno, NV

The Reno Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.

Jackpot of Gems

Reno Convention Center, 4390 S. Virginia, Reno, NV 89502 Contact: sailondan55@aol.com

September 17-18, 2022 – Chico, CA

Feather River Lapidary and Mineral Society

Silver Dollar Fairgrounds, 2757 Fair St., Chico, CA 95928

Contact:(530) 586-7052, mmpg@att.net

September 24-25, 2022 – San Luis Obispo, CA

San Luis Obispo Gem and Mineral Club

San Luis Obispo Veterans Memorial Building, 801 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, CA

Contact: 2022show@alogem.org

September 24-25, 2022

Long Beach Mineral and Gem Society

Signal Hill Public Library, 1800 E. Hill St., Signal Hill, CA

Contact: 562 253-1390, karin.yasuda@gmail.com

October 1-2, 2022 – Anderson, CA

Shasta Gem & Mineral Society

Shasta District Fair and Event Center, 1890 Briggs St., Anderson, CA (just south of Redding) 96007

contact: miler3987@gmail.com <http://shastagemandmineral.org>**October 8-9, 2022 – Redwood City, CA**

Peninsula Gem and Geology Society AND Sequoia Gem and Mineral Society, Redwood City Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt Ave., Redwood City Contacts: 650 575-3144 cci@pacbell.net, 650 743-7447 catphalen@comcast.net

Website: <http://pggs.org>**October 8-9, 2022 – Grass Valley, CA**

Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society Nevada County Fairgrounds, 11228 McCourtney Rd., Grass Valley, CA 95945

Contact: 4vanclan5@att.net

Website: <https://www.ncgms.org/show-info/>**October 9, 2022 – Fallbrook, CA**

Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society

123 W. Alvarado Street, Fallbrook CA 92028

Contact: (760) 728-1130, info@fgms.org

Website: <http://www.fgms.org>**October 15, 2022 – West Hills, CA**

Woodland Hills Rock Chippers

First Methodist Church, 22770 Sherman Way, West Hills, CA 91204 Website: <http://www.rockchippers.org>**October 15-16, 2022 – Santa Rosa, CA**

Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society

45th Annual Mineral and Gem Show

Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial, 1351 Maple Ave.,

Contact: (707) 849-9551, jolene4srmgs@gmail.com

Website: <http://SRMGS.org>**October 14-16, 2022 New Orleans, LA****2022 AFMS and SCFMS Show & Convention**

Hosted by Gem and Mineral Society of Louisiana

Alario Event Center, 2000 Segnette Blvd. Westwego LA

October 15-16, 2022- Placerville, CA

El Dorado County Mineral and Gem Society

El Dorado County Fairgrounds, 100 Placerville Dr., Placerville, CA 95667 Contact: office@edcmgs.org

Website: <http://www.eldoradocountymineralandgemsociety.org>**October 29-30, 2022, Sacramento, CA**

Sacramento Mineral Society

6151 H Street, Sacramento, CA

Contact: (916) 662-5819,

gemshow@sacramentomineralsociety.org

Website: <https://www.sacgemshow.com>



Officers

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Asst. Treasurer:	Ana John	assistanttreasurer@renogms.org
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Eric Fendelander		Hilary Loupee
Rob Kendrick		Webb Varnum

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Shop: (temporary)	Patrick Davis	
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Sunshine:	Joanne Sworthout	sunshine@renogms.org
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Volunteers	Terry Bush	volunteers@renogms.org

Volunteer Page

A new feature in the *Conglomerate*, this space will feature those members who have volunteered their time to help RGMS function in a number of different and valuable ways. 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.	George Forbes
Gen. Mtg. Guest Greeter	Joanne Sworthout
Gen. Mtg Door Prizes	Denise Sizemore,
Educational Outreach	Steve Norman
Future Rockhounds Advisor	Steve Norman
Silent Auction	Available
JPOG Auction	Available
Facility Expansion	Patrick Davis

Instructors

<i>Bead weaving:</i>	Sue Webb
<i>Casting:</i>	Spencer Ennis
<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>Adv. Silver Fabrication</i>	Jill Atkins Al Bolshazy
<i>Beg. Silver Fabrication</i>	Spencer Ennis
<i>Slab saw</i>	Patrick Davis
<i>Stabilizing</i>	Adam Sousa
<i>Tumbling</i>	Janet & Albie Longueira
<i>Wire Art</i>	Ginger Ragazzi