



The Conglomerate

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

September, 2024

General Meeting

Wed. September 4, 7 PM

Baldini's Casino, Second Floor

Board Meeting

September 11, 6 PM

Rock Building, 490 Rock Blvd

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 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.

Lights, Camera, Action!
Stephanie Leonard, Public Relations

PBS RENO/*WILD NEVADA* contacted us, The Reno Gem and Mineral Society, Inc., offering to feature us in their final episode of "Rockhounding in Nevada." The 6-part series will be traveling to many places to find special rocks and fossils here in our state and will conclude with information about "now what do I do with this rock?"

Chris Orr, who has been with *Wild Nevada* for many years as a show host and now film producer, selected our Society to deliver the information about what to do with the rocks after bringing them home.

The Society gladly accepted the invitation to show them our building and highlight the processes we use to take the "rough" material to a finished work of art. President **Dean Sizemore** led **Chris** and her cameraman **Alex** on a tour taking a rock from the slab saw, to the trim saw, to the lapidary belts, and to the tumblers.

Members were stationed at each machine demonstrating its use and **Chris** was most inquisitive, not just for herself but for rockhounds who will be watching this show. Although we kept the machines quiet for the filming, **Chris** and **Alex** did insist on seeing them in action.

We had our class instructors at tables, set up with their equipment and supplies to demonstrate beading, wire wrapping, wire weaving, silversmithing, copper etching, lost wax casting, cold connections and lampwork beads. Displays of beautifully crafted jewelry showed evidence of what can be made from that special rock find. Maps and display cases were featured to show the many areas where spectacular Nevada rocks and gems can be found. Field trips were highlighted as part of our membership. Education opportunities for the younger rockhounds were also emphasized highlighting our monthly classes, University scholarships and donations given to other community organizations. Continued page 2

Contents

JPoG etc	2	Kids, People.....	11
JPoG Ads.....	3	Cleanup	12-13
Membership.....	4-5	Beading.....	14
Field Trips.....	5-6	School.....	15
Volunteer.....	7	Ethics.....	16
Board	8-9	Shows.....	17
Mtg. Recap, JPog.....	10	Officers	18
		Volunteers	19

Chris and Alex were so impressed with all the demonstrators that they spent time with each one, listening and filming the explanations. Witnessing the beauty and the craftsmanship that made each one unique kept them captivated, and we emphasized that many of these pieces as well as others can be found at our two ARTISAN CRAFT FAIRS and THE JACKPOT OF GEMS SHOW.

As rockhounds, becoming mesmerized, they spent an extra hour with us and of course couldn't leave without signing up as new members!!

So, we look forward to December when this episode will be shown here in our Reno area. The following year it is to be broadcast on the Las Vegas and Sacramento area stations, then on to PBS partner stations across the US, perhaps over 200 of them. Now *that's* a gem to be appreciated!

RGMS MEMBERS: BE PROUD AND SUPPORT THE FUTURE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF OUR ORGANIZATION FOR OUR COMMUNITY AND FOR THOSE ROCKHOUDS TO COME



PBS visit photos by Stephanie Leonard

Sunshine Report Joanne Sworthout

If 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 Co-Chairs Daniel Ellis and Terry Bush

Hey rockhounds, the **Jackpot of Gems Show** is upon us. Time to check on what you signed up for at the show.

The September 4th general meeting is when we hand out the **T-shirts** for volunteering to work at the show so please come and get yours.

Set up is Friday, September 13th at 7am at the Grand Sierra Resort in the Silver Pavilion downstairs past Johnny Rockets. There will be coffee and munchies for you. All other set up for display cases will start at noon on Friday. The vendors will start at the same time.

Should be a busy day as we have **55 vendors** this year and an all **new venue** for the show. One good thing is we will be walking on carpet this year which should help avoid aching feet.

The **Show dates** are Saturday, September 14th and Sunday the 15th.

Thanks for your help and we'll see you there.

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 Longueira**, Treasurer



Jackpot of Gems Show Ads on TV and Radio
Stephanie Leonard, Public Relations

It is only a month away and it's time for our TV ads to appear on our local stations. Here is the list of the days, times and channels that are showing a 15 sec or 30 second promotion. Tune in and get revved up for our Gem Show.

BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 9-15, 2024

Channel 2NEWS KTVN

Morning news Mo-Fr 4:30 am-9am

CBS SUNDAY MORNING

Sunday 7am-8:30am

Evening News Mo-Fr 4:00 pm-7:30pm

2 NEWS WEEKEND

Sa-Su 5:00pm-7:00pm

NEWS 4 FOX 11 KRNV-TV September 2-15, 2024

Morning news Mo-Fr 5:30am-9am

Evening news Mo-Fr 10:00pm-10:35pm

BEGINNING AUGUST 19---SEPTEMBER 14, 2024

SPECTRUM TV

TRADITIONAL TV: on all networks in Reno North, Reno South, Carson City, Gardnerville

NBC Sports, Discovery, Lifetime, Paramount, MSNBC, Game Show Network and more

STREAMING TV: FXNC, MSNBC, Cartoon Network, Nat Geo, SYFY, MLB and more

Look for our 15-second and 30-second ads showing on over 41,00 spots.

RADIO TIME

September 7, 2024, at 11:00 am, radio station 99.1 will present an interview to announce our JPOG SHOW. During the 15 minutes, we will ask the listening audience to phone in with answers to Nevada themed questions for the prize of 2 tickets to the Show--no hints to our members! Listen in for a chance for those show tickets.

Membership

Lynda Traves, Membership Director

Wow! We left for Burning Man August 16 to September 4 and it is amazing how the departure date came up so quickly. As I wrote this, I was still packing. This article is published in the September 2024 Conglomerate. Mark Cappel and I are still be out on the Black Rock Desert working and assisting with the art project we are involved with. Where we are on the Black Rock Desert playa does not have any rocks to collect, but in the surrounding mountains we have found geodes, opal, petrified wood and hot springs. If you get a chance to go on the field trip to the Black Rock Desert, take the opportunity to go. You may even have a chance to try out some of the hot springs.

New Members (July 17 to August 14)

Jeremy, Sara, Avery, Myles, Jonah , Steven **Jones**
and Logan **Carroll**

Rana, John, and Ian **Fischer** Scott **La Dell**

Kelsie and Hunter **Gardiner**, Donna **Pratt**, Vanessa **Masini** and family
Donald **Cantrell**, Lyle and Kyler **Hayes**

Horace (Duke), **Griffin**, and Pam **Goff** Alex **Music**

Jennifer **Gumms** and Patrick **Winans** Chris **Orr**

Morgan **Harrison** Dorothy **Pomin**

Laura **Heinemann** Donna and Donald **Rothenbaum**

Shawn **Hurlburt** Nova Lance-**Seghi**

Membership Dues Information:

To pay your membership online or in person download the membership form: <https://renogms.org/membership-2/> If you have any questions, please email me at membership@renogms.org.

A family membership is for those living in the same household.

- 1) Membership Dues for January to June covers a membership through the year 2024: \$50 for Family; \$35 for individual; and \$25 for student memberships.
- 2) Membership Dues July to October are prorated for the year as follows: \$25 for a Family membership;\$18 for an Individual membership; and \$13 for a student membership. For the next year, however, you need to renew your membership at the annual membership rate.Dues paid in November to December covert to full annual rate and cover the full membership for 2025—in effect,1 or 2 “free” months included in the 12-month price: \$50 for Family; \$35 for individual; and \$25 for student memberships.

Also, new for 2024, is the signing of the RGMS waiver. If you renew online, it is a one click affirmation. Otherwise, print the waiver and sign it with your membership dues. If paying at the General Meeting or at a class, there are copies at the shop. For those who have not signed the waiver with their dues.

Continued p. 5

Specific membership information:

As of August 15, we have 508 memberships representing 830 members.

Apologies for errors and omissions for any names above. Please advise the Membership Director at membership@renogms.org asap for any corrections or omissions so I may make the correction.

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

September Field Trip Report
Hilary Loupee, Field Trip Director

We had a couple of fantastic back to back field trips out to the area that the Navy will be fencing off in a few years. At the end of July, we visited the Fairview Agates, south of the bombing range. There was a great turnout for Saturday, but only a few of us stayed to camp and dig again on Sunday. It was pretty hot out there!



While a few people explored the hills, most of us revisited our dig holes from last year. I was back in some pretty awful hard clay about 5 feet down, but the agates were plentiful. Nick was digging in his hole from last year in much softer stuff and seemed to be popping out some really nice large round nodules. The heat got to a lot of people who left throughout the day, but I heard a lot of people did stop by the colorful jasper spot I had flagged on our way in. Our core group of diggers stayed until about 6pm.

Over at the campsite after dinner, we all went to where Dave and Annie had found a petrified log the day before. Sure enough, there was a giant log that someone had obviously been digging up on the top of a hill. I had no idea there was petrified wood in the area!

We all stayed up pretty late looking at one of the most incredible skies I've ever seen. I got some great photos of the Milky Way just with my phone camera!

The next day, our small group was back out digging in the holes. Dave went to a hole south of both mine and Nick's where I've never seen many people have a lot of luck, but he was pulling out massive agates just a couple of feet down! I may have to rethink my method of always jumping in the compact clay hole!

The very next weekend, we visited the opalized wood spot just south of Middlegate. After meeting everyone at Quartz Mountain, I first took everyone to the Kaiser Mine for some easy fluorite. At noon, we headed over to our upper dig hole for the opalized tree. I was so disheartened to see that the giant holes we had dug last year were mostly filled in!! After several hours of digging, I was in my head trying to think of an alternative site in the area to take everyone because this was just too much work. Although the bulk of our Saturday day trippers left, we, nevertheless were left with a pretty strong group of diggers and we made a ton of progress. Fred hit some solid ground under the fill dirt



Continued next page

Continued from p.4

And pulled out a couple of nice larger pieces. It was already pretty late in the day, but I couldn't pull him or Kelly out of the hole to go to Middlegate with me. I left them there around 5:30 so that I could go meet Todd at Middlegate. He had driven out after I texted him that I was worried I might be the only camper. Todd and I enjoyed dinner and were just about to leave when Fred finally arrived, so we stayed and got to listen to the great live music Middlegate always has. I talked to the owners, who are RGMS members, and they said we could just camp there if it was convenient for a field trip. I really like that idea as they have some great food and the live music is so cool. They also have a rock shop right on the property!



The next day a new batch of day trippers joined us to head back out to the opalized wood. We were all excited after the bigger finds from the day before and we moved a LOT of dirt. I spent the whole day running around trying to knock down and haul away overhangs because some of the fill



dirt walls were way too high. It only take a small amount of dirt to be able to bury you if it collapsed. Make sure you dig without steep sides and take the time to haul your tailings away from the hole. If you just pile them on the edge as most people were doing, you are just creating a bigger risk of collapse. I think this may have also been why the hole seemed so filled in after last year.



At the end of the day, I still couldn't pull Fred out of that hole. He was still finding some great pieces. Jen and I took off to go eat dinner at Susie's BBQ in Fallon before getting home. I've gotten to the point where I'm thinking about Susie's all day on Sundays in the desert!

Coming up we will have the Turquoise Dig at Royston near Tonopah on September 21st. We have an exciting weekend planned with options to stay in haunted hotels, go on a ghost tour, or visit nearby Gemfield. Then, we have the Black Rock trip from October 4-6, and Coaldale from 18-20.

Black Rock Desert – collecting Black Rock geodes. 4WD high clearance vehicles and also good skill driving your vehicle on steep terrain. The playa must be dry as we have to cross the entire thing! Camping on the playa. 4 hours from Reno.

Coaldale – Trip to the Monte Cristo range led by Jim Welker. Collecting agate, jasper, rhyolite, and more. About 3.5 hours from Reno. 4WD high clearance vehicles only. Good campsite for RVs off of Highway 6.

Photos by Hilary Loupee

Remember To Volunteer

Tom Nichols, Past President

Have you taken a lapidary class? Have you gone on a Field Trip? Have you won a rock at the General Meeting raffle?

Every one of these activities is the result of a team effort that enabled you to participate in these events.

It has been my privilege to help bring some of these events to you. **Virginia** and I have been members of the Reno Gem and Mineral Society for over 10 years. Because of RGMS, we have been to Black Rock, McDermitt, Texas Springs, Gerlach, Gabs, Fairview, Austin and Tonopah. These are places that we may never have visited if we had not taken that first field trip with RGMS.

Rocks. **Virginia** found the geode of geodes in Blackrock. I have found obsidian at Davis Creek and Black Rock. I remember **Jim Welker** telling me to dig a little deeper. **John Peterson** telling me to look a little higher on the hill.

I still have my first lapidary pieces from lapidary class (a rhyolite cabochon from Wonderstone Mtn.) After thinking I was finished, I believe **Barbara Hartman** had to tell me to go back and do more polishing, maybe 3 times?

Have you taken a class to use the Slab Saw(s)? It's magical to see the inside of a piece of petrified wood that you have found.

I remember my wonder when **Steve Norman** and **Nick Bombard** showed me the magic of fluorescent rocks at the Jackpot of Gems. (Through 32 auctions and Saturday rock sales I have managed to accumulate a few of my own fluorescent rocks).

Membership dues and lab fees only cover a small part of the work to make these events available.



The volunteer efforts of RGMS members have enabled me to experience these wonderful memories. RGMS has well over 40 people that volunteer throughout the year to bring these events to you. Many additional members volunteer for specific events. The Jackpot of Gems, coming up this September will require well over 5,100 hours of member volunteer time. Planning for this event has gone on for a year.

Your RGMS needs volunteers. We need volunteers for specific events, like the Jackpot of Gems. We also need volunteers for specific functions. For instance, I am acting Tech Coordinator. The Tech Coordinator helps "coordinate" other Tech volunteers. For instance, **Sven Sander** runs our MailChimp email blast system. **Stevi Bryant** has been managing our Social Media (Facebook, Instagram) accounts. RGMS needs Tech help. **Patrick Davis** needs help with our "Rock Building", 480 So Rock Blvd, Sparks, NV 89430.

RGMS urgently needs Volunteer help in all areas to continue functioning at its current high level. Some current volunteers have been RGMS members and volunteers for decades. We have volunteer positions manned by members 78 plus years old—even 86.

Below is part of **Reno Gem and Mineral Society Membership Expectations** which is included with your membership application:

"Membership is about expanding and sharing your love for the Earth Sciences. RGMS is run by members to educate members and the public. Time you spend volunteering and sharing your knowledge and interests with others leads to many special memories and long-lasting friendships."

Participate in RGMS activities. Respect other members. Be responsible. Communicate with other members. **Volunteer your time and knowledge**

See you at the next Board meeting or volunteer event.

RGMS Board Meeting Minutes – July 12, 2024**Respectfully Submitted by Steve Norman, Secretary**

These are the summarized notes. Contact me for the full report at secretary@renogms.org or find them on the clipboard on a countertop near the office .

President: **Dean Sizemore** called the meeting to order at 6 pm, and Vice President **Tim Steeper** led the pledge of allegiance.

New Business: **Stephanie Leonard**, PR Director, introduced **Todd Iverson** to explain trademarks. Todd makes trademark applications at the Nevada state level and federal submissions. Trademarks protect organizations like RGMS that have developed icons, symbols, and logos. The Board tabled the trademark issue and to await a proposal.

President: **Dean Sizemore** reminded board members that we may have differences of opinion but that we should respect each other and be polite.

Treasurer **Janet Longueira** explained the financial report for June 2024, which included expense and profit reports. **Juliet Hitchcock** made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, and **Sue Webb** seconded. The motion carried.

President: **Dean Sizemore** reported that parking in front of the Delmar Store across the street from the clubhouse is not allowed as the new owner plans to tow violators even after hours.

Tech: Director **Tom Nichols** reports members are struggling with the webmail service as the site's data gets more extensive. Tom's priority will be fixing this, including alternative service providers. Stevi Bryant is adding Society news to Facebook and Instagram pages.

Email blasts: **Sven Sander** reports 11 email blasts to 2,340 present and recent members.

Public Relations: Director **Stephanie Leonard** thanked **Robin Howard** for her efforts to provide some mineral gifts to the South Dakota Mineral Society. A committee has met to work on the year-book application. Working with the Public Broadcasting Station, Stephanie has persuaded PBS to visit the Society to produce a video graphic showing RGMS activities on national television for Travel Nevada! **Chris Orr** is the rockhound and is interested in seeing the Shop and activities that RGMS provides. Stephanie plans to get a copy of the video that they produce. The filming is on July 29, and President **Dean Sizemore** has volunteered to be the narrator.

Jackpot of Gems: Director **Dan Ellis** reports eight weeks until the Show. The main goal is to get more people to attend the Show with fifty-four vendors. Two Local television advertisements will reach 135,000 people. Facebook and other social media will work to promote the Show. Dan thanked everyone for their help, and this is Dan's last year as Show Chairman. Dan began as Show Chair in 2016, making this his eighth year. Dean and the Board thanked Dan for his work in moving to a larger area for the Show at Grand Sierra Resort, taking the annual event to the next level.

Security: Director **Lori Connel** has stepped down from the position, and **Theresa Langhans** is re-suming the position. Theresa thanked everyone for their ideas and explained that it was time to finalize the questions about when the building is open, which are usual and customary times. Theresa had a voting ballot with three questions for all voting members to consider. The Board approved the usual and customary hours from 6 am to 10 pm. There could be urgent exceptions, like a plumbing leak, as emergencies may happen. Directors wanting to do work beyond these times

Continued next page

must get Board approval. The majority of the 20 voting members favored the proposals, with 5 no votes over the three questions considered. Theresa has reviewed the allocated alarm codes, with some members through non-usage may lose their alarm code. An indoor camera is in the planning stage.

Craft Fair\Display Cases: **Theresa Langhans** has 12 vendors signed up for the Nov 8, 9 and 10th event dates. She would like to have 20 vendors. There are 31 display cases arranged for JPOG, with about 19 more meeting the goal.

Social: Director **Debbie Bush** needs donations for the raffle and prizes for the Christmas party. There will be no potluck on Friday, September 13, but a continental breakfast for vendors and volunteers at the Grand Sierra Resort on Saturday and Sunday before the opening of the Show. There will be a potluck on Sunday for volunteers who work on the Show's breakdown and unload the truck on Sunday evening.

Shop: Director **Patrick Davis** reports oil is on hand for the Shop, and anyone interested in purchasing may contact him. A five-gallon bucket costs \$55.

Membership: Director **Lynda Traves** reports 476 memberships, amounting to 799 members. Not many have filled out the survey, and Lynda suggested another e-blast for the members.

Field Trip/32 Auction: Director **Hilary Vass Loupee** reports 14 people on the Texas Springs outing. There is a lot of mining equipment near the collecting areas. Lithium mining claims are in the area and may be challenging to return. A field trip to Fairview is upcoming to find agates before the Navy closes the area to collectors. Hilary had a small pick wound on her leg, so she reminded everyone to be careful. The 32 Auction is at \$564, with more time to bid before Friday, with pick-up winning bids on Saturday, July 13th. Saturday sales on mineral sales have generated about \$200 in donations. People are not donating as much due to a lack of progress on the building expansion.

Conglomerate and AFMS/CFMS (American Federation Mineral Society & California FMS): Editor **Sue Webb** reminded all board members to submit articles on any activity that can make a story regarding Society business. These articles are due on the 15th of the month.

LLC: Director **Debbie Bush** reports that Delmar is selling online and wants to continue renting the building space for their enterprise.

No other business meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm.



My Rock Hammer
Estwing.com

August General Meeting Recap
Stee Norman, Secretary

The August General Meeting began with **Janet Longueira**, Treasurer, filling in for **Dean Sizemore**.

In Board news: please complete the survey so the Society can improve.

The upcoming Jackpot of Gems Show Co-Chair, **Terry Bush**, stated that the Show will be on September 14 and 15, with the set up on Friday morning, September 13. The truck is to be loaded a few days before the Show. An e-blast will let volunteers know the specific date and time. There are flyers available for anyone who wishes to distribute them to friends, neighbors, or local businesses. The Jackpot of Gems Show is the Society's primary fundraiser; volunteers can donate a couple of hours for free admission to the Show and get a free t-shirt.

Other miscellaneous business: **Stephanie Leonard** thanked everyone who helped make the Public Broadcasting Station filming a success. The episode will be available for viewing sometime in December 2024. **Chris Orr** and the camera technician spent three hours looking and talking to people. The film crew observed the lapidary equipment and the different kinds of rock saws. They saw demonstrators making lapidary, silversmithing, wire wrapping, beading, casting, and much more. The PBS members were so impressed with the Society that they signed up to become members! The Show with RGMS, a three-minute segment, will air on 27 other stations at a future date. Stephanie thanked everyone for helping out. Stephanie has Channels 2, 4, 8, and Spectrum streaming channels set to air Jackpot of Gems television advertisement. The marquee that shows the event at the Grand Sierra Resort will add a Rock and Gem Show for the highway traffic to view. Stephanie stated that with 56 vendors, the Show needs lots of customers

Jackpot of Gems Show Raffle and Potluck
Debbie Bush, Social Director

We are close to the show now. If you are donating an item for the raffle, please contact me as soon as possible at social@renogms.org. Tickets for the raffle are available now. If you purchase tickets at the September meeting you receive extra tickets at the \$20 level. Instead of the normal 24 tickets, you get \$5.00 extra in tickets (6 additional tickets). This bonus is only available PRIOR to the show. So... get your

If you have a couple of hours that you can work at the show---we still need some people to work the raffle table on Sunday. It is a lot of fun (no rock knowledge needed!)

Thank you to all of you who have or are planning to help in any way for the JPOG show! tickets at the General Meeting on September 4th!

Our Sunday JPOG Potluck (September 15th) is for any and all members who helped with the show. If you can donate a Main dish, Side dish or dessert email me at social@renogms.org. The Potluck begins about 6:30.

The Social Committee will have some munchies from 5:30-6:30. We must wait for the people who are tearing down the show.

Announcements and Notices

Lost your water bottle or other item? According to **Janet Longueira**, we now have a Lost & Found Box at the rock building. If you are missing something, just ask one of the instructors, and they will happily help you.

Sue and R.J Webb will celebrater their 60th anniversary this month.

Members who have announcements, birthday or anniversary notices may send them to the editor at conglomerate@renogms.org.

Kid's Corner Caves

Steve Norman, Youth Advisor



Every time it rains, it pours down a weak but effective acid that dissolves rocks. Most of these dissolved rocks move to rivers, lakes, and oceans. Rainwater can boost acidity by finding more carbon in the soil and getting stronger to enter the ground to form caves. The water flows into holes in the ground to slowly grow into a large room and then into long tunnels. This rainwater from the clouds is mixed with carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to form carbonic acid but this weak acid is not dangerous to people. The fizz in a soft drink is carbon dioxide, and it is safe to drink. This carbonic acid is why mountains slowly smooth and shrink after about a million years.

There are caves in every state, with about forty-five thousand caves in the United States. Mammoth Cave in Kentucky is more than 400 miles long. The state of Tennessee has over 10,000 caves. The Carlsbad

Caverns in New Mexico is the home of some 400,000 bats. That is a bad bat cave to be stuck in at night with so many flapping wings flying around. Watching them fly out of the cave on their way to eat bugs and mosquitoes would be fun. Caves have **stalactites** that stick **tight** to the cave roof and look like sharp teeth sticking down from the ceiling or can grow into columns when they meet the **stalagmites** that stick to the **mountain** or cave floor. These drops of water containing rainwater drip onto the floor to develop structures going from the floor to the ceiling. Next time you get a chance, check out a cave. Remember, it's important to be cautious and not to get lost. Always go with a tour group. It is usually cool and relaxing in a cave. The temperature is the average annual temperature of the area, so that is about 40 degrees Fahrenheit in Northern Nevada and 50 degrees in Southern Nevada.

Ref.: Michael Wyese, Washington University, St. Louis; Picture: Google, Online Bing.com

People

Steve Norman, Youth Advisor



Every time I go down to the Clubhouse, I see a lot of volunteering. **Julie Hilsabeck** is often on the premises, and many instructors help out. **Charlie** and **Connie Smith** came down several times with a saw and a nail gun to upgrade the Jackpot of Gems signs—and do they ever look good! Then there is Mario's Fluorescent Mine, which he designed to give the old black pop-up tent a new look. **Mario Ramos** provided all the materials, signs, and brackets to improve the popular attraction at the Jackpot of Gems Show. **Renée Samuels** has helped Future Rockhounds with her expertise in art. She said one of the cleverest things I ever heard about art and the life skills of problem-solving. Renée noted that "art is problem-solving." I see that in so many ways in the shop; people figure out how to make a rock into a gem, and kids figure out how to paint a rock or a fossil. **Alan and Bobbi Metzger** have supported the education outreach for many years, which means tumbling, sorting, and labeling gifts to give to students and teachers. Speaking of tumbled stones, I used several bags and a big jar of various polished rocks to give away at the Northern Nevada Outdoor Experience. These beauties came from the work of **Janet and Albie Longueira**. Many more examples of people being

creative make the Society full of talented people. This list could go on, but I will list just one more: **Hilary Vass** donated an ammonite fossil and a fossil trace that she dug up on a recent field trip. I can now say with some pride that this ammonite came from Nevada when the state was part of the seashore a long time ago

Work Crew on the Scene
Stephanie Leonard, Public Relations

The day before the PBS Reno film crew was to arrive at the Rock Building, a group of dedicated volunteers came with cleaning gloves and energy to get our place clean and shining.

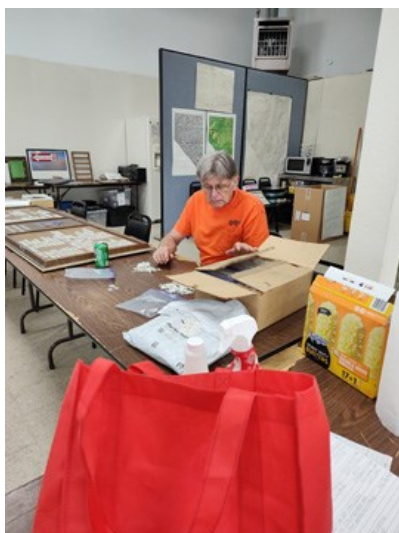


Brooms, swiffers, vacuums and mops were furiously employed to remove the grime from months of usage at the saws, lap machines, tumblers, worktables, and bathrooms. Display cases were dusted and the glass polished, and items reorganized and reset to showcase memorabilia and donations.

Although we didn't have time to paint the blue trim along the wall border, the rooms were as spit polished as we could make them. It is an honor for our Society to be featured in the final episode of Wild Nevada that will emphasize the community of and for rockhounds. It was important to reveal the gem we have and all the opportunities we provide here at 480 S. Rock Blvd.

After decades of emphasis on the building, it's purchase, along with the machines and tools for teaching, making the space for classes and meetings, adding newer office equipment and providing a welcoming environment for all members and to the interested public, this history had to be acknowledged and made available to all.

THANK YOU, TEAM and VOLUNTEERING, HAS REWARDS



More photos
next page



Photos by Stephanie Leonard

September 29 Bead Weaving Class

Juliet Hitchcock , Instructor

The Chevron stitch is the subject of this month's Bead Weaving Class. It is so versatile that once the basic stitch is learned, variations are limited only by your imagination. Many types of beads lend themselves to this design: glass, crystal and natural gemstone beads are all wonderful to use. Pendants you have made or purchased, as well as larger beads or pearls can be used as drops and center pieces.

Karen Boldi and I teach the bead weaving class every month except December. Look for our table at the meeting for necklace samples and picking up a materials list. If you have questions, you may email me, referencing this class in the subject line at: juliet_reno@yahoo.com



Photos Juliet itchcock and Pinterest

RGMS Class & Shop List

Julie Hilsabeck, School Director

Classes Offered by RGMS

First, carefully read the blast sent the Tuesday before the meeting. Please respond via email to me, Julie Hilsabeck, at school@renogms.org, if you want any of the classes offered. Please indicate which class date and time you want. Many of the classes are limited to a maximum of 4 students. The list below shows the cost for each class and, if known at this time, the usual day of the week. Days often change from month to month, **so rely on the blast and the online calendar for the latest and correct information.**

Advanced Silver Fabrication

\$22.50 per class

Advanced Wire Wrapping

#22.50 per class plus optional kit fee

Beading

\$20.00 .per class

Beginning Lapidary

\$60.00

Beginning Silver Fabrication

\$120.00

Cold Connections ?

Lost Wax Carving for Casting ?

Mineral Identification

\$60.00 plus \$25 kit fee

Open House

\$7.50/hour of use

Slab Saw Use

\$60.00

Tumbling

\$60.00

Wire Wrapping

\$90

Advanced Wire Art

\$22.50 per class

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: Some classes are offered only occasionally.

Advanced Silver Fabrication”

Advanced Wire Art/Wrapping/Weaving

Beginning Silver Fabrication

Beginning Lapidary

Intermediate Lapidary

Beading and Bead Weaving

Bezels Using Gallery Wire

Casting”

Cold Connections

Etching on Copper

Jewelry 101

Lost Wax Carving

Mineral Identification

Making your own ear wires

Silver Crocheting

Silver Chain Making

Slab Saw Use Basics:

Tumbling:

Wire wrapping/weaving: ...

Desired additions to the list when/if we can find a teacher:

Enameling (future)

Faceting (future)

Intarsia (future)

ALAA Land Use Policy

1. Adherence to the AFMS Code of Ethics assures compliance with most statutes and regulations governing collecting on public lands and encourages respect for private property rights and the environment. Clubs are urged to read the AFMS Code of Ethics in at least one meeting every year, to publish the Code frequently in the club newsletter, and to compel compliance on club field trips.
2. Individuals and clubs are urged to write their elected representatives and land use management agency supervisors regarding issues of rule making, legislation and enforcement affecting field collecting of minerals and fossils.
3. Individuals and clubs are urged to join and support activities of the American Lands Access Association (ALAA), a sister organization with responsibility for advancing the interests of earth science amateurs with legislatures and land use management agencies.
4. The AFMS will receive a report from ALAA at its annual meeting.
5. The AFMS endorses the principle of multiple use of public lands as a guarantee of continuing recreational opportunities.
6. Wilderness and monument designations are inconsistent with the principle of multiple use. In view of the vast amount of public land already designated as wilderness and monuments, future such designations should be minimal, taking into account the increased demand for recreational opportunities, including rock-hounding, created by a growing population.
7. In furtherance of the principle of multiple use, the AFMS believes that laws, regulations and rules established by relevant governmental authorities should be designed to allow freest possible access to all public lands, coupled with minimal restrictions on the recreational collection of minerals, fossils, gemstone materials and other naturally occurring materials.
8. A right to collect minerals and fossils on public lands should be protected by statute.
9. The AFMS urges its members to work with any or all government authorities to achieve a good working relationship in order to improve the public image of recreational collectors.

AFMS Code of Ethics

- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.
- I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind—fences, signs, buildings.
- I will leave all gates as found.
- I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- I will discard no burning material—matches, cigarettes, etc.
- I will fill all excavation holes, which may be dangerous to livestock.
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.
- I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land Management, or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- I will observe the "Golden Rule," will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and public image of rockhounds everywhere.

CFMS/AFMS Shows 2024

September 14-15, 2024 – Reno , NV

Reno Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
Grand Sierra Resort and Casino, 2500 E. 2nd St., Reno NV
Silver State Pavilion
Website: <https://renogms.org/>

September 21-22, 2024 – Monterey, CA

Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Monterey Fairgrounds, 2004 Fairgrounds Road, Monterey, CA
Contact: susieharlow@gmail.com
Website: <http://cvgms.rocks>

September 28-29, 2024 – San Luis Obispo, CA

San Luis Obispo Gem and Mineral Club
Veteran's Memorial Bldg, 801 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, CA
Website: <https://slogem.org/gems-by-the-sea/>

October 12-13, 2024 – Redwood City, CA

Peninsula Gem and Geology Society and Sequoia GMS
Redwood City Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt Ave., Redwood City, CA 94061
Contact: cci@pacbell.net
Website: <https://www.sequoiagemandmineralsociety.org/sgms-gem-mineral-show.html>

October 12-13, 2024 – Long Beach, CA

Long Beach Mineral and Gem Society
Signal Hill Library, 1800 E. Hill Street, Signal Hill, CA
Contact: (562) 253-1390, lbmineralgemsociety@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.facebook.com/LBMGS>

October 19, 2024 – West Hills, CA

Woodland Hills Rock Chippers
1stUnited Methodist Church, 22700 Sherman Way, Woodland Hills, CA 91307
Contact: barnettcelia53@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.rockchippers.org>

October 19-20, 2024 – Santa Rosa, CA

Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society
1351 Maple Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Contact: (707) 849-9551, coons@sonic.net
Website: <http://SRMGS.org>

October 26-27, 2024 – Sacramento, CA

Sacramento Mineral Society
Scottish Rite Center, 6151 H Street, Sacramento, CA
Contact: (916) 662-5819, gems@SacramentoMineralsociety.org
Website: <http://sacgemshow.com>

November- 2-3, 2024 – Concord, CA

Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society
Centre Concord, 5298 Clayton Road, Concord, CA 94521
Contact: show@ccmgsclub.com
Website: <http://www.ccmgsclub.com/show>

November 2-3, 2024 – San Diego, CA

San Diego Mineral & Gem Society
Liberty Station Conference Center, 2600 Laning Road, San Diego, CA 92106
Contact: LuAnn Benton, benton.luannz@gmail.com
Driving Directions: <https://bit.ly/libcmap>
Website: <https://bit.ly/gemdiego2024>

2025 Shows

January 18-19,2025 – Exeter, CA

Tule Gem & Mineral Society
Exeter Veterans Memorial Building, 246 Chestnut St., Exeter, CA
Contact: bandgbing@aol.com
Website: <http://www.tulegem.com>

Take a few minutes and check out the *CFMS Newsletter* for September. Just enter <http://www.cfmsinc.org> and find the newsletters in the list on the right. Click on the link.

The *Newsletter of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies* is published monthly. You can view the current issue as well as back issues online at www.Amfed.org. There is also a new Kids' Website

. www.juniors.amfed.org



Reno Gem and Mineral Society
 480 South Rock Blvd
 Sparks, NV 89431
 www.renogms.org



The Conglomerate
 Volume 58, Issue 9
 September, 2024

Officers

<u>President:</u>	Dean Sizemore	President@renogms.org
<u>Vice President:</u>	Tim Steeper	Vicepresident@renogms.org
<u>Secretary:</u>	Steve Norman	secretary@renogms.org
<u>Asst. Secretary:</u>	Suzanne Webb	assistant_secy@reogms.org
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Janet Longueira	treasurer@renogms.org
<u>Asst. Treasurer:</u>	Robyn Howard	assistanttreasurer@renogms.org
<u>Past President</u>	Tom Nichols	pastpresident@renogms.org

Board Members at Large

<u>Nick Bombard</u>	<u>Albie Longueira</u>	<u>Denise Sizemore</u>	<u>Stephen Smith</u>
<u>Gail Dedrick</u>	<u>Jim Welker</u>	<u>Juliet Hitchcock</u>	
<u>Commission</u>	<u>Directors</u>	<u>& Committee</u>	<u>Chairs</u>

<u>ALAA rep</u>	<u>Available</u>	alaa@renogms.org
<u>Bulletin Editor:</u>	Suzanne Webb	conglomerate@renogms.org
<u>Ass't Editor</u>	Karen Boldi	conglomerate@renogms.org
<u>CFMS & AFMS</u>	Suzanne Webb	cfms@renogms.org
<u>Craft Fairs</u>	Theresa Langhans	craftfair@renogms.org
<u>Door Prize Coordinator</u>	Denise Sizemore	doorprizes@renogms.org
<u>Building & Facility</u>	Terry Bush	maintenance@renogms.org
<u>Facebook</u>	Stevi Bryant	socialmedia@renogms.org
<u>Field Trips:</u>	Hilary Loupee et al	fieldtrip@renogms.org
<u>Historian:</u>	<u>Available</u>	historian@renogms.org
<u>Jackpot of Gems</u>	Daniel Ellis	jpoq@renogms.org
<u>Ass't JPOG</u>	Terry Bush	jpoq@renogms.org
<u>Librarian</u>	April Young	library@renogms.org
<u>LLC Manager</u>	Debbie Bush	lhc@renogms.org
<u>Email Blasts</u>	Sven-Eric Sander	emailblast@renogms.org
<u>Membership:</u>	Lynda Traves	membership@renogms.org
<u>Photographer:</u>	Steven Smith	photographer@renogms.org
<u>Public Relations:</u>	Stephanie Leonard	publicity@renogms.org
<u>School:</u>	Julie Hilsabeck	school@renogms.org
<u>Security</u>	Theresa Langhans	security@renogms.org
<u>Shop:</u>	Patrick Davis	shop@renogms.org
<u>Social:</u>	Debbie Bush	social@renogms.org
<u>Sunshine:</u>	Joanne Sworthout	sunshine@renogms.org
<u>Tech Director</u>	Tom Nichols (temp)	tech@renogms.org
<u>Volunteers</u>	Wendy Kazas	volunteer@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. Contact **Wendy Kazas** to learn what's needed.

32 Auctions
Assistant Door Prize Coord.
Compliance Officer
Educational Outreach
Future Rockhounds Advisor
Facility Expansion
Gen. Mtg Door Prize Coord
Gen. Mtg. Guest Greeter
JPOG Dealer Chair
JPOG Silent Auction
Rock Bldg Leasing Mgr
Safety Coordinator
Used Equip, Sale Coord.
Yearbook

Nick Bombard & Hilary Loupee
Available
Ana John
Steve Norman
Steve Norman
Patrick Davis
Denise Sizemore,
Joanne Sworthout
Patrick Davis
Albie Longueira & Araya AuRa
Terry Bush
Spencer Ennis
Patrick Davis & Committee
Kelly Plumb et al

Instructors (Alphabetical by class)

Bead Weaving:
Casting:
Etching
Cold Connections
Jewelry 101
Lapidary
Lost Wax Carving
Mineral ID
Silver Fabrication (Adv.)
Silver Fabrication (Beg.)
Slab saw
Tumbling
Wire Art

Karen Boldi & Juliet Hitchcock
Spencer Ennis
Irene Comstock
Janet Longueira & Robyn Howard
Robyn Howard
Julie Hilsabeck & Barbara Hartman
Tim Steeper
Tom Calhoun/Webb Varnum
Jill Atkins
Spencer Ennis
Patrick Davis
Janet & Albie Longueira
Kelly Plumb & Jennifer Rhodes