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# Geological Society of Nevada Southern Nevada Chapter Newsletter

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January 2004

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## **Minerals of Nevada**

**DATE:** Thursday, January 29, 2004

**SPEAKER:** Steve Castor

**LOCATION:** Room 102 Lilly Fong Geoscience Bldg.

**TIME:** 5:30 p.m. Social Hour  
6:30 p.m. Presentation

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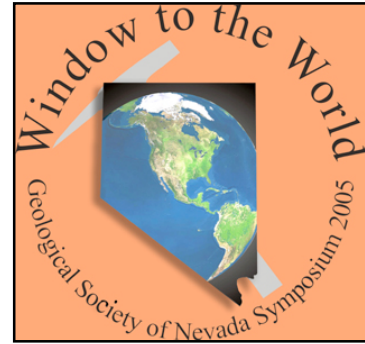
## **MEMBERSHIP NEWS:**

Want to become a GSN member or need to renew your membership? Pick up an application at the monthly meeting or go to the main GSN website – [www.gsnv.org](http://www.gsnv.org) - to download an application. Remember to check off the box to become a member of our southern Nevada chapter! Checking of the southern Nevada box provides funds to our chapter that pay for refreshments at meetings and any future field trips.

## **ON THE WEB:**

Our chapter website is finally finished! Go to <http://geoscience.unlv.edu/GSN/gsnsc.htm> to view the list of current officers, list of current members, GSN news and upcoming events, previous and upcoming field trips, and download a copy of current and past newsletters. Members, if you have any southern Nevada geology-related photos that you want added to the site please let me know. Also, if you have any news or events please let me know and I will update the site.

## **WINDOW TO THE WORLD GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEVADA SYMPOSIUM 2005**



This symposium will be held May 13-20, 2005 in Reno. Every 5 years GSN holds this symposium in conjunction with the Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology, Society of Economic Geologists, and the U.S. Geological Survey. In addition to presentations, the symposium also includes field trips and a trade show. Previous symposiums have been extremely successful. For more information on this symposium please visit [www.gsn2005.org](http://www.gsn2005.org).

### **SPEAKERS, SPONSORS, & ADVERTISEMENTS:**

Does anyone know of a good local field trip excursion that the chapter can run during the spring? If so, please contact any of the chapter officers.

If your business would like to sponsor a GSN southern Nevada chapter meeting or place a paid advertisement in this newsletter please contact Jim O'Donnell at [jim\\_odonnell@cox.net](mailto:jim_odonnell@cox.net).

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### **Minerals of Nevada** Steve Castor & Greg Furdock

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Nevada is a mining state and minerals are, and have been, extremely important in the state's commerce and history. The state currently leads all other states in the production of gold, silver, mercury, barite, lithium, magnesite, and some specialty clays. In recent years, mineralogical research in Nevada has flourished due to the state's gold mining boom. In addition, Nevada is well known as a source of world-class mineral collectibles such as barite and calcite from the Meikle Gold Mine; orpiment, galkhaite, and realgar from the Potosi district, gold from the Round Mountain Mine, stibnite from the Manhattan district, and opal from Virgin Valley. Despite these facts, no publication has been produced that deals comprehensively with the minerals that occur in Nevada. By contrast, seven editions of Minerals of California were published between 1914 and 1983, and three editions of Mineralogy of Arizona were published between 1977 and 1995. Our new book, Minerals of Nevada, is intended to remedy this deficiency.

Minerals of Nevada is intended mainly as a reference source. It is designed for use by collectors, mineralogists, earth science researchers, exploration geologists, prospectors, and

interested laymen. The book, released in November, 2003 by the University of Nevada Press and the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, has over 500 pages. It is available from the Publication Sales Department of the NBMG ([www.nbmj.unr.edu/sales/pbs.htm](http://www.nbmj.unr.edu/sales/pbs.htm)).

Most of Minerals of Nevada is taken up by a catalog of mineral localities. In this catalog, occurrences of all mineral species that have been found in the state are listed and described briefly. The catalog is arranged by species name in alphabetical order. Under each species heading, localities are grouped by county. More than 840 mineral species are listed. Some, such as the new mineral goldquarryite, are represented by a single occurrence. However, lists of localities for some minerals, such as barite, gold, quartz, and stibnite, take up several pages. An exhaustive bibliography enables readers to track down more detailed information about the occurrences. In addition to the catalog, Minerals of Nevada contains introductory articles on the importance and history of Nevada's minerals and mining, Nevada's geologic history, Nevada type minerals (37 mineral species first described from the state), important types of mineral deposits and specific collecting areas in the state, and Nevada meteorites. A 1:1,000,000-scale map showing mining districts and sites that are important mineral localities is included. The book also contains 32 pages of color photographs of Nevada mineral specimens, most by the well-known mineral photographer Jeff Scovil and by micromount photographer Sugar White.

In addition to the authors, others who contributed to introductory chapters were Forrest Cureton, Dave Davis, Martin Jensen, Jack Kepper, Scott Kleine, Keith Papke, Chris Rose, Dick Thomssen, and Joe Tingley. Fred Breit, Lee Hsu, D.D. LaPointe, and John Schilling contributed to research for the catalog. Although not officially contributors, mineral collectors and geologists including Neil Prens, Steve Pullman, Jim McGlasson, Bob Walstrom, Walt Lombardo, Mark Coolbaugh, and Don Hudson provided helpful information on mineral occurrences.

### **Speaker Biography**

Steve Castor is a research geologist with the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology specializing in Economic Geology. He received his B.A. in Geology from the University of California at Riverside, and M.S. and Ph.D. in Geology from the University of Nevada, Reno. Steve's areas of expertise include geologic mapping, igneous petrology, mine geology, mineral exploration, and ore petrology. He has been with the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology since 1988. For more information on Steve Castor view his website at <http://www.nbmj.unr.edu/staff/steve.htm>.