



April 2023

Volume 79 No. 1

President's Message

SGAMS will hold elections at the April 20th general meeting. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at this event. After the elections, we will be announcing the 2023-2024 Board. It is an exciting time for the club. The new Board will be installed at the dinner on May 18th. So, plan to attend, look for further details in the next Rock-a-Gram.

At the last general meeting we asked people to sign up for our clubs' committees. The committees work with the Board and are necessary to the successful functioning of our club. I would like to thank all the people who answered that request and signed up for a committee. It is appreciated more than you know. My goal is to establish well-functioning committees that meet regularly, connect with Board members, and address the needs of the club. It is through the efforts of all that we can build a club that meets its members' needs and continues to grow. I am hoping that the re-established committees will bring us fresh ideas, innovative programs, field trips, new members, and encourage a connection with youth through educational programs. If we all chip in, there is no limit to the astounding things we can do! I am hoping this will begin a new chapter for this club, one in which wonderful things will be accomplished. Will you join us on this adventure and volunteer your time and talents?

This is my last president's message as I will be turning over the reigns to your new president next month. I will continue to serve the club as Vice President. It has been an honor to serve you and our club. This unexpected turn of events has taught me much about the club and its members. The most important is that the best way to learn how to do something is to take the plunge, dive right in and ask for help from those with more experience. It has been a pleasure working with the Board. They are devoted, hardworking, and ultra-istic in their giving of their time and talents. Without their guidance, help, and instruction I could not have survived these last couple of months. They are the "rock" on which I relied.

See you at the general meeting!
Best Regards,
Karen Kulas

Table of Contents

President’s message	1		
Table of Contents/ donations	2	Donation Form	8
2/2 Board Minutes	3	Websites/Class info	9
2/16 Meeting Minutes	4	Class info cont.	10
New Members	4	Membership Application	11
3/9 Board Minutes	5	Advertisers	12
3/16 Meeting Minutes	6 / 7		

**HANDLING
DONATIONS:**

Donors are encouraged to bring items to the clubhouse at Board meetings (first Thursday of each month, September-May), or to the Membership meetings (third Thursday of the month, September-May).

Julia Larson has volunteered to be the point person for donations and will be available following each of these meetings to accept and record donor and donation information. During the summer hiatus, June 1-August 31, or at any time, donors can contact Julia at: jmlsgams22@gmail.com, or 727-410-3781. If calling, please leave name and number for her to return the call.

Please do not leave unidentified items at the clubhouse at other times.

SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.
BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 1, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm by President Susan Biel. Board members attending were Kelly Nolen, Breta McGuire, Pat Davis, Pat Church, Karen Kulas, Julia Larson, and Debbie Hamilton (by phone from Tucson AZ).

Show preparation and status: Tagging of items for the silent auction is nearly complete; half of the grab bags are done, an additional 75 are needed; items for the club table are being sorted, cleaned and boxed, but still need identification and pricing; we are still looking for a volunteer to handle Facebook postings; sign-up sheets for show duties have been moved to a digital platform by Pat Davis. This is a change from the previous hand-written sheets – it will be online sign-up only. Susan scheduled several work days for the remaining activities.

The program for the February general meeting will be the annual auction, our big fund raiser. Sue Hazelden will be the auctioneer. Use of the Square system for payment was discussed. The board decided to use this for the show and agreed to purchase four of the updated boxes which accept chip cards and are more secure. The club auction will accept cash or check only.

The repaired Facetron head has still not been received. Susan remains in contact with the Jarvi representative regarding this.

Old business: We need three estimates on printing for the canvas bags for the show. A slogan has been agreed.

New business: Pat Church stated we need to purchase a scale for the show and also for use at the clubhouse. Harbor Freight has some that could be purchased, and this was authorized.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Submitted by Julia Larson, Recording Secretary

**SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.
GENERAL MEETING FEBRUARY 16, 2023**

Show & Tell: Prior to the start of the meeting, Dave Watson showed a lighted display case he made.

The meeting was called to order at 715 by Karen Kulas, VP, in the absence of Susan Biel. Minutes were accepted as published. The treasurer's report was skipped. There were no committee reports.

There will be a show committee meeting Sunday February 19 at 1 pm.

Name tag holders are available for \$3.50.

Reminder: signup for show booths is available online only.

New business: None

Old business: none

The meeting was adjourned at 715, followed by the auction.

Submitted by Julia Larson, Recording Secretary

Welcome New Members

BAYLESS, Jeff	MARIE, Laura & Ariana Shelton
GRIFFIN, Don	McBETH, Katherine
CAMANSE, Jessica, Michael Pavick	PARIS, Regina
CAMPBELL, Kari, Andy	PESTA, Lisa
COOLEY, Scott	ROEDER, Debi, Norman Fischer
LEWIS, Carrol, Lee	SEVER, Yaver, Isil

**SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.
EMERGENCY BOARD MEETING MARCH 9, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by Karen Kulas, interim president, due to the sudden resignation of Susan Biel. Present were board members Shamus Walker, Pat Davis, Kelly Nolen, Pat Church, and Julia Larson.

Karen will continue to handle membership paperwork despite returning north in May. The future of the club was discussed at length. We must have more support and cooperation from members. Suggestions included having a social time 30 minutes prior to the start of the general meetings, i.e., ice cream socials, etc.

We need job written descriptions for various committees and show procedures. This has been attempted several times in years past, but is now a critical need to encourage membership to join in these activities. Having a buddy system or mentors from the board members and committee chairs may help.

We can ask vendors to send us pictures of items they will have at the shows so we can publish them on Facebook.

Nominations for 2023-24 officers and board were discussed. Karen cannot continue as president since she is away for half the year, but she will continue as vice president. Pat Davis consented to serve as president for one year, having held the office several times in years past. Shamus indicated he would serve as president for the 2024-25 term. Shamus will move to one-year director. Julia will continue as recording secretary. Debbie Hamilton will move to a 2 year director. Kelly is at the end of her 1 year. We need volunteers for the following positions: Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, three-year director, and a one-year director. We also need an editor for the newsletter.

Karen will contact the two schools who have asked us for programs and let them know we are unable to help this year.

Call Larry if there are equipment needs or problems.

The meeting was adjourned at 905 pm.

Submitted by Julia Larson, Recording Secretary

SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.
GENERAL MEETING MARCH 16, 2023

Prior to the start of the meeting, there was an ice cream social. Shamus Walker brought the ice cream and Karen Kulas brought a birthday cake for her husband Mike.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Karen Kulas. New members were introduced. If anyone needs a holder for their name tag, contact Sue Hazelden. Tag holders are \$3.50. The raffle was held. Tickets are two/\$1.00.

The treasurer's report was filed for audit. There were no published minutes in this month's newsletter.

JoAnn Knoss, the dinner chairperson, said the May dinner would be held at the Pinellas Grill on May 18.

Karen spoke about the future of the club, the critical need for members to participate in all club activities, stressing the club may not be able to continue without members' ongoing support. **"Our ability to conduct business, financially support the clubhouse, provide resources, hold classes, shows and keep the shop open is totally dependent on members who volunteer their time and talents. Our club is only as productive as the membership makes it."**

She discussed the By-Laws regarding membership application, which state applicants must volunteer to serve on at least one committee. There was a discussion on dues, which are due annually on September 1 and collected between September 1 and December 1. If dues are not paid by December 1, membership is suspended and participation in all club activities is prohibited. Suspended membership may be reinstated if delinquent dues are paid by the following September 1. After that date membership is forfeited and a new application must be completed.

Continued on next page.

Continued:

Karen issued a call for volunteers for officer and board positions for the 2023-24 year. Nominations for these positions are:

- President – Pat Davis
- Vice President – Karen Kulas
- Treasurer – Barbara Kirchheimer
- Corresponding Secretary – JoAnn Knoss
- Recording Secretary – Julia Larson
- 3-year Director - Sue Hazelden
- 2-year Director – Debbie Hamilton
- 1-year director – Shamus Walker
- 1 year Director – Don Schlough, Brenda Smith

Voting will be held at the April 20 general meeting. Installation of officers will be at the May 18 dinner meeting.

Sandra Daum mentioned a professor from the University of Kansas, a jeweler, who might be able to give a program for the club if/when she is in town. (We can't pay for transportation.) She also suggested that we should provide a roster of club members to all members, including their email addresses and phone numbers. It was decided to take a look at that possibility after the elections.

Dave Watson suggested that we should also think about what we offer to our members i.e. classes, open shop, etc.

The meeting was adjourned at 835 pm.
Submitted by Julia Larson, Recording Secretary

SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC [SGAMS]
DONATION FORM

Mr/Mrs/Ms

YOUR NAME (PRINTED)

CITY STATE ZIP CODE ADDRESS

EMAIL

() ()

PHONE NUMBER ACCEPTS TEXT? Y N ALTERNATE PHONE #

Separator line

Please provide a description of each item you are donating, and a good faith estimate of its value (required). See note below regarding sales.

Table with 3 columns: #, Description, Valued @. Contains 10 rows with dollar signs in the 'Valued @' column.

Thank you for your generous donation, as noted above, to be sold or auctioned off for fund-raising. We did not provide any goods or services in exchange for this contribution. SGAMS is recognized as a tax-exempt public charity under Section 501(c) (3) of the internal Revenue Code. Contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law [generally speaking when a single item is valued at \$250 or greater, please consult a Tax Advisor for the best advice]

Signature Date ev 12/1/2022

FOLLOW THESE LINKS TO UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION:

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies web site is at: <http://www.amfed.org>

American Lands Access Association: www.amlands.org

**Southeast Federation of Mineralogical
Soc**www.southeastfed.org

National Park Foundation: [www.nationalparks.org/
explore-parks](http://www.nationalparks.org/explore-parks)

Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society: www.canaveral-mgs.com

Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society: www.cfmgs.org

Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society: www.bonevalley.net

Tampa Bay Fossil Club: www.tampabayfossilclub.com

Tampa Bay Mineral & Science Club: <http://www.tampabayrockclub.org/>

Withlacoochee Rockhounds of Hernando County: www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com

An amazing resource is the website: <https://geology.com> — a wealth of information on geology, rocks, minerals, volcanoes, etc. ; maps, and geology products for sale.



Our Web Site: <http://www.sgams.com>



SGAMS OFFERINGS FOR MEMBERS —

Our club offers shop time to its members at a cost of \$3.00 per hour or any part of the hour. Classes are open shop with a monitor to provide assistance as needed. In cabbing, participants will learn the basics of cutting, forming, and polishing a simple cabochon. Faceting is the art of cutting and polishing angled faces on a gemstone; this class is at a cost of \$65.00 and the student will cut and polish one round brilliant stone.

Wire wrapping basic class allows you to set precious and semi-precious gemstones into simple metal frameworks made out of copper, silver, gold, and other materials.

Silversmithing class is to help with foundational silversmithing skills and finishing suitable for the novice or those with limited experience.

Wax casting is a \$50.00 class which includes one 3 inch flask, in two sessions, which involve investing spruced trees in preparation for the burnout process and then melting and pouring into the remaining cavity to produce the cast pieces. Finishing of the cast pieces is minimal and participants are encouraged to attend the Silversmithing Lab if they wish help in this last stage.

Clubhouse Class Schedules - By Reservation Only

CABBING: Thursdays 12 to 4pm Larry Murray (727) 686-1314 WORKSHOP & INSTRUCTION

Must receive TEXT request by Tuesday Evening

Saturday Cab Shop hours are suspended until further notice.

FACETING/WIREWRAPPING: Tuesdays, 6 to 9 pm

Dave Watson 727-541-2917 or sgams2020@gmail.com

SILVER SMITHING: Tuesdays, 6 to 9 pm and Saturdays 1 to 5 pm

Joe Cooper 317-775-5476 or sgams2020@gmail.com

WAX CASTING: By Reservation, announced by Email Blast to All Members

Joe Cooper 317-775-5476 or sgams2020@gmail.com

ROCK-A-GRAM

This is the official newsletter of the SUNCOAST GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC. , 4619 69th St. N. St. Petersburg, FL 33709. This Society is a member of the SOUTH-EAST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES, INC., and its parent society, the AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES, INC .

The general purpose of this society is to promote popular interest in education and research in the earth sciences and lapidary arts, and to cooperate with other similar organizations. General Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month, September through April at 7:00 p.m., at our clubhouse, 4619 69th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL. December and May meetings are special meetings and a time and place will be announced in this bulletin. The public is cordially invited to attend the general membership meetings. Dues: \$20.00 single or \$30.00 couple/family; due annually each Sep

Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
Application for Membership

Name: Last Name First Name Spouse's Name

Address: City: State: Zip:

Phone: () Email:

Type of Membership: Adult Single (\$20) Family (\$30)

Family means spouse and/or at least one child under 18 living in your home.

WHAT TIME AND TALENTS CAN YOU DONATE TO THE CLUB? (for example: retired; lapidary skills; plumbing; grant-writer, machinist, etc.):

Reason for Joining the Club (Shared, Interest, Education, Field Trips, etc.)

What other Gem clubs are you (or have you been) a member?

Service to the club: In order for your membership application to be considered for approval, you must select at least 1 (one) area below where you have an interest and feel you can be of assistance.

Table with 2 columns and 12 rows of membership service options (A-L) such as 'Serve as a Committee Chairman', 'Assisting Newsletter Editor', etc.

Use of the club facilities is a privilege of membership in SGAMS. Please be prepared to present your membership card when you come in to use the shop or take a class.

Mail application to: Patricia Church, 2404 15th St. W., Palmetto, FL 34221

Dues Paid? Date:

Membership Chairman Treasurer Date Accepted to Club

Privacy Policy: SGAMS will never sell, trade nor share your personal information received here in any manner and will always protect it and your privacy.

**We thank our advertisers for their support
and encourage membership to patronize them.**



www.JRPeck13.com

Handmade in the USA

Jewelry & Gifts

James Peck

Cell: 727 768-3597

jrpeck13@gmail.com

FB: JRPeck13 LLC

Working with Silver, Gold, Copper, Bronze and Brass
to create Rings, Earrings, Bracelets, Necklaces,
Chain Maille, Pendants, Charms and Keyrings.

JAY'S TREASURES

460 E. LEMON ST.
TARPON
SPRINGS, FL (813)