

ROCK-A-GRAM



May, 2008



Volume 39, No. 9, Page 1

ANNUAL BANQUET

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Doors open - 6:30 p.m.

Dinner - 7:00 p.m.

AT CLUBHOUSE:

4619 69th Street North

St. Petersburg

Program:

Installation of Officers

The club will provide an entree and drinks. Please bring a covered dish to share, and your own tableware (plates, silverware, napkins) for each member in your party. Hope to see you there as this will be the FIRST official function at the new clubhouse!

Nominations for the 2008-09

President: Bill Schmidt
Vice President: Peter Palmer
Treasurer: Sue Hazelden
Recording Secretary: Julia Larson
Corresponding Secretary: Walt Upham

Past President: Sue Black
3-year Director: Pat Davis
2-year director: Homer Rankhorn
1-year Director: Evie Loster

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Bill Schmidt, President 727-822-8279
 Email: schmidwj@eckerd.edu
 3939 Porpoise Drive SE
 St. Petersburg, FL 33705

Peter Palmer, Vice President 727-823 1793
 1144 -23rd Avenue North
 St. Petersburg, FL 33704

Sue Hazelden, Treasurer 727-321-5732
 Email: sujagems1@aol.com
 4823 14th Ave. N.
 St. Petersburg, FL 33713

Julia Larson, Recording Sec. ... 727-522-1254
 Email: juliamlarson@earthlink.net
 5297 Huntington St. NE
 St. Petersburg, FL 33703

Walt Upman, Corr. Sec. 727-323-3935
 Email: flupman19@yahoo.com
 3698 18th Avenue North
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Pat Davis, 3 yr. Director 727-323-2147
 Email: pdavis8034@tampabay.rr.com
 4642 23rd Ave. N.
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Homer Rankhorn, 2 yr. Director 727-812-4002
 Email: homer@rankhorn.com
 15666 49th Street North #1119
 Clearwater, FL 33762

Evie Loster, 1 yr. Director 727-821-7230
 Email: eloster@tampabay.rr.com
 2150 23rd Avenue North
 St. Petersburg, FL 33713

Sue Black, Past President 727-345-8994
 8136 22nd Avenue North
 St. Petersburg, FL 33710

Debra Bremer, Editor 727-298-0061
ROCK-A-GRAM

SGAMS Clubhouse Address: 4619 69th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL 33709, www.sgams.com

Clubhouse Activities: Listed on mailer coversheet and announced at membership meetings.
SGAMS Board of Director's Meetings: 7:30 p.m., 1st Tuesday of each month; September - May.
 All members are invited to attend SGAMS Board of Director's Meetings at our clubhouse.
 We solicit your attendance, and constructive suggestions for improving our club.

Hello members,

It's been a long year for us at the club, but a good one. The construction is done and so the County says we can use the clubhouse. The normal cleaning, straightening, painting and grounds will be on going as normal for any building. You will be pleased with what has been done so far and we look for input on what to do next and who can help. The open floor plan is just great.

I hope you can join us at the banquet and celebrate the grand opening & first general meeting in our home. We will have a special "directed drawing" for prizes and ask anyone who can bring a special piece for offering to do so. Full information is else where in this news letter.

Our membership is increasing even at this late date in the season with three applications accepted just this past board meeting. This is great. So as not to loose any momentum over the Summer we plan to be open on a limited basis on Saturday and as needed for classes. If you are in town over the next three months check inside for full details.

Have a safe Summer, investigate lots of new places to dig, visit some of your old favorite haunts, check into the classes at William Holland and Wild Acres, brings us back stories and samples (good and bad - were realistic here) and remember the first program in September will be of your summer exploits. Its summer, try and take it easy and have some fun!!

Yours,
Bill Schmidt, President

NEW MEMBERS

Wendy Shellhorn
wshellhorn@yahoo.com
 6032-24th Ave., N
 St. Petersburg, FL 33710

Marge & Charles Woolheater
cwoolheater@yahoo.com
 2000-49th Ave., N
 St. Petersburg, FL 33714

David Watson
bwatson1@tampabay.rr.com
 9980-59th St. N
 Pinellas Park, FL 33782

**WELCOME
 NEW
 MEMBERS!**

FEDERATION NEWS

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
Volume 61, Number 5, Newsletter – April, 2008

www.AMFED.org

2008 Regional Federation Shows & Conventions

California Federation

June 27-29
Ventura, CA

Eastern Federation

Feb. 23-24
Jackson, MS

Midwest Federation

June 20-22
Lincoln, NE

Northwest Federation

June 20-22
Ontario, OR

Rocky Mountain Federation

Oct. 31 - Nov. 2
Tulsa, OK

South Central Federation

AFMS
Sept. 25-28
Humble, TX

AFMS Annual Convention

September 25-28, 2008
Humble, Texas



Collecting Trip

The Pinellas Geological Society is arranging a collecting trip to Honeymoon Island. You should find agatized coral, sharks teeth and of course shells. The word is those interested are meeting just inside the gate at 10 a.m. on **Saturday 31st of May**. Please call *Hugh or Leona Sheffield* at 894-2440 or e-mail them at **husheffie@aol.com** to confirm the details and get updates.

Summer at the Clubhouse

After the banquet general meeting it is customary for the club to shut down, turn off the utilities, and everybody take a breather. Many members are snow birding back to the North, others are off on their vacations and that does not leave very many people around to shoulder the burden.

However, with the late end of construction and grand opening, this year we are going to offer a limited schedule over June, July, and August. We want to keep the momentum up, new members busy and hopefully be able to build all summer to the full resumption in September. To that end the Board members are offering classes based on interest and a general open time on Saturday. So...

Saturday Hours:

Starting on May 24th, Peter Palmer will be at the clubhouse around 10:00 a.m. and I will be switching from Mondays to be there at 12:00 going to 4:00 p.m.. We will be teaching cabbing and working on the clubhouse and equipment during these set times.

On an interest basis:

- **Julia Larson** will teach glass fusing and stain glass work and is available for times on Monday and Tuesday evening.
- **Sue Hazelden** can do gem trees anytime on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.
- **Pat Davis** is available for beading work on Wednesdays, day or nighttime.

Please contact these board members, through the published information on the second page of this Rock-A-Gram, and convey your interest in starting a class. The standard shop charge of \$2.50 an hour, which goes to the club, will apply and the instructors will tell you if any materials are extra. Minimum and maximum enrollments are also set by the instructors.

Thank You,
Bill Schmidt

Graves Mountain “Rock Swap and Dig”

Friday, October 3, 4, 5, 2008

8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

”Your society is invited to field collect minerals at Georgia’s premiere mineral location!”

The caretaker in charge of Graves Mountain, Clarence Norman Jr., has announced his plans to hold two separate three day digs and rock swaps on the Mountain during **April 25, 26, 27, 2008** and during **October 3, 4, 5, 2008**. He will have the mountain open for collecting from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day. All participants must stop at the welcome table in the Hospitality tent to sign a liability release and make a small contribution to defray the cost of opening the mountain and providing port-o-lets. There will be several golf cart type, four wheeled vehicles available to transport those participants who have trouble walking long distances. The dig will cease and everyone is expected to be off the mountain by around 6 p.m. each day. Participants will be allowed to park in a designated area on the mountain.

Rock Swap and Hot Food/Drinks:

Junior will set aside an area in the upper parking lot for tables to be setup for daily rock swaps. Anyone who would like to setup a table(s), please contact Junior at the phone numbers listed below. Hot food cooked on the grill, cold drinks and chips will be available for purchase on the mountain during all three days of these events. Don’t forget to bring some extra money to buy the special “Graves Mountain Rock Swap and Dig” T-shirt!

THESE DIGS ARE OPEN TO ALL !

(Any group can reserve Graves Mountain, contact caretaker, Clarence Norman, Jr (Junior) for more information.

Contact Information:

Clarence Norman Jr. - 706-359-3862 (his business) or 706-359-2381 (his home) Website: <http://www.gamineral.org/commercial-gravesmountain.htm>

DIRECTIONS: From Atlanta’s I-285, take I-20 east to the exit for Washington, GA SR 78 (SR 10, SR 17) and turn left. Travel north to Washington, turn right onto SR 378 and drive 11 miles to the Graves Mountain area. The entrance to Graves Mountain is on your right about 8/10 mile past the Lincoln county line sign. The entrance is a paved road that goes through a gate and up a hill. Please park along the access road and then proceed to the “Welcome Tent” at the end of the pavement to obtain a liability release form and to make a donation for the portable bathrooms, etc.

Graves Mountain Code of Conduct!

Park your vehicle in the designated area(at the end of the paved access road but not much beyond the woods to the right of this road).

NO child under the age of 12 years old is to be allowed on the mountain because of all the dangers involved.

ALL pets must be kept under control and on a leash.

The field trip leader(s) have final and absolute say as to where you may safely work.

Ladders or power tools of any kind will not be allowed. (HAND TOOLS ONLY!)

STAYAWAY FROM ALL HIGH WALLS!! NO REPELLING OFF OF ANYTHING!

NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO DRIVE THEIR VEHICLE ON ANY PART OF GRAVES MOUNTAIN BEYOND THE PARKING AREA! (The caretaker must accompany anyone driving beyond the parking area!)

EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE OFF THE MOUNTAIN BY DUSK. (Absolutely no one is allowed on Graves Mountain after dark.)

Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

Minutes of General Meeting

April 17, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. Several new members and guests were introduced and welcomed to the club.

Sue Hazelden gave the treasurer's report. She also reported on the upcoming yard sale, and the good news that *Irv Thornton* is now recovering from his recent hospitalization. He continues to wear a neck brace, which is very uncomfortable, but he is doing well.

Bill Schmidt reported on the shop, stating that new wheels have been ordered and should be received in the next few days. Bill and his helpers have done a lot of work in the shop since the construction has been completed.

The May meeting will be our last until fall, and it will be our usual end-of-year dinner. **THIS YEAR THE DINNER WILL BE AT THE CLUBHOUSE.** The board will provide meats and drinks. Members should bring their own plates, utensils, and a side dish or salad. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m., with dinner at 7 p.m..

Following the business meeting, *Charlie Lester* presented a wonderful program on **meteors and meteorites**. He brought many pieces from his collection, and talked about the various types of meteorites, their composition and characteristics. It was a wonderful opportunity to hold these bits from outer space. He even had a tiny moon rock, which, of course, we couldn't touch. It was such a fascinating program that we didn't get out of the rec center until after 9 p.m.

Submitted by:

Julia Larson, Recording Secretary

**Hope you all have a safe
and wonderful summer!**

Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

Minutes of Board Meeting

May 6, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Present: *Bill Schmidt, Walt Upman, Peter Palmer, Homer Rankhorn, Pat Davis, Sue Hazelden, and Julia Larson.*

Sue Hazelden gave the treasurer's report, which was accepted for audit. She then presented the proposed budget for 2008-09. After discussion, the board voted to accept it as proposed.

Clubhouse: New wheels are now installed and labeled. *Charlie Lester* installed a new top for the dopping bench. Lou Codol refurbished a manual machine. *Tom Abel* donated 15 boxes of magazines. Tom is now working in Alaska! The cover over the plumbing is done. Thank you notes need to go out to several individuals. *Walt Upham* will handle this.

New hours for machine room: Beginning May 24, Bill will be at the clubhouse on SATURDAYS (no more Mondays after this day) **from noon-5. Peter will open at 10.** The clubhouse **WILL** be open during the summer.

Classes: Fee for all classes will be the same as the fee for the machine room, \$2.50 per hour, plus any materials fee the instructor needs to charge. The fee will be retained by the club, not the instructor. *Debbie Bremer* will put a list in the newsletter and those interested can contact the instructor directly.

Other items discussed: no board meetings during the summer months; **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR LAWN MOWING**; removal of the old shed.

Membership applications for *David Watson* and *Charles & Marge Woolheater* were accepted.

The Pinellas Geological Society is having a field trip to Honeymoon Island on Saturday, May 31. Meet inside the gatehouse at 10 a.m. Bring a lunch and plenty of sunscreen. Contact *Hugh or Leona Sheffield* for additional information.

End of year dinner:

*****This year, the banquet will be held IN THE NEW CLUBHOUSE.*****

Meats and drinks will be provided. Bring your own plates and eating utensils, and a salad or side dish to share. Doors will open at 6:30, with dinner at 7. There will be a parking coordinator to ensure plenty of parking for all. Come see your wonderful, newly renovated clubhouse! *Mr. Cook*, the contractor, has been invited so we can thank him for all the hard work. The place looks great!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m., after which your board members began setting up for the dinner.

Submitted by:

Julia Larson, Recording Secretary

Rock-A-Gram

WE THANK OUR ADVERTISERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE
ALL OUR MEMBERSHIP TO VISIT AND PATRONIZE THEIR BUSINESSES.

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Clubhouse Summer Schedule

Saturday's - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

May							June						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
			1	2	3	4							1
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23 30	24	25	26	27	28	29
July							August						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31

ROCK-A-GRAM

This is the official newsletter of the SUNCOAST GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

P.O. Box 13254, St. Petersburg, Florida 33733-3254

This Society is a member of the *SOUTHEAST 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.

Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month, September through April at 7:30 p.m., at the Azalea Adult Center; 1600 72nd Street North, St. Petersburg, Florida. 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: \$15.00 single or \$20.00 couple/family; due annually each September

All exchange bulletins should be sent to the Rock-A-Gram editor.

Feel free to copy any material from this bulletin, but please list all byline credits.

ROCK-A-GRAM (Official Bulletin)

Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.

Debra Bremer, Editor

1349 Lakeview Road

Clearwater, FL 33756

Clubhouse Activities

Board Meeting:

(September - May)

First Tuesday: 7:30 p.m.

Cabbing Classes:

Saturday - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Clubhouse Maintenance:

Saturday - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Faceting, Silversmithing,

Wire Wrapping Classes:

By appointment