

ROCK-A-GRAM



October, 2011



Volume 43, No. 3, Page 1

General Meeting

Thursday, October 20, 2011

Location:

Clubhouse

4619 69th Street North

St. Petersburg, FL

Program:

Do You Know Henry Clifton Sorby?

Come to meeting and find out from Julia Larson about Henry Clifton Sorby. She says, he is the most important Geologist that you've probably never heard of.

DUES ARE DUE once again. Please give them to the membership chairperson, or Sue Hazelden, Treasurer at our General Meeting. You can pick up your new membership cards at our general meeting. If you live too far away to attend our meetings, please send us a self-addressed stamped envelope, so we can mail your membership cards to you. Thank you.

DUES ARE DUE!

\$15.00 Individuals—\$20 per family

If your last name starts with N-Z, please bring goodies to our meeting to share. If you won something at our last meeting, please bring a donated item for our drawing. Thank you.

Board Members

Pat Davis, President... .. 727-323-2147

Email: outtamygourd@yahoo.com

George Comas, Vice President... .. 727-526-7176

Email: gcomas@tampabay.rr.com

Sue Hazelden, Treasurer 727-321-5732

Email: sujagems1@aol.com

Julia Larson, Recording Sec... .. 727-522-1254

Email: glassgal0947@gmail.com

Dave Schwebel, Corr. Sec. 727-547-0364

Email: dschwebel@tampabay.rr.com

Donna Remsnyder, 3 yr. Director .. 727-692-6006

Email: dsr75@verizon.net

Donna Mallory, 2 yr. Director 941-776-9055

Email: dmallory66@gmail.com

Dave Watson, 1 yr. Director 727-541-2917

Email: bwatson1@tampabay.rr.com

Bucky Joseph, 1 yr. Director 727-525-2755

Debbie Bremer, Editor... .. 727-298-0061

Rock-A-Gram Newsletter

Email: bremerslapidary@yahoo.com

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:** 7:00 p.m., 1st Thursday 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. **General Meetings:** 7:00 p.m., 3rd Thursday of each month; September - May, at our clubhouse.

President's Message

Hi All!

I just got back from two weeks at the camp for grown-ups, William Holland Lapidary School in North Georgia. I taught a cabbing class the first week and then spent another week in Joe DePietro's opal class. That is truly enough to get you hooked on opals! This is a great class and one that I would recommend to anyone interested in these gems. A little cabbing experience before you go would be helpful.

On the home front, Bill Schmidt and Bucky Joseph have been working on the monster saw. We will be able to cut huge rocks, when that is up and running. Dave Schwebel has been busy keeping the cabbing machines in good shape. Many thanks to these guys for all the things they do for our club.

This is YOUR club and it will be what we make it. Please feel free to share your ideas and energy with the board members and committee chairs. No one can do it alone, but together we can accomplish whatever we set out to do.

Happy Halloween!

Pat Davis, President



We Still Are Collecting Aluminum Cans



Bring your cans to the clubhouse. Our meetings next year will be held back at our clubhouse. If you would like to volunteer to collect these cans for Sue at the general meetings, please let her know. Your help would be greatly appreciated

Please note: Do not put cat food cans with the aluminum cans, unless they are aluminum. Test them with a magnet, if not sure, most of them are not. Also, no aluminum foil or bottle caps.

Sue Hazelden, Treasurer

727-321-5732

Email: sujagems1@aol.com

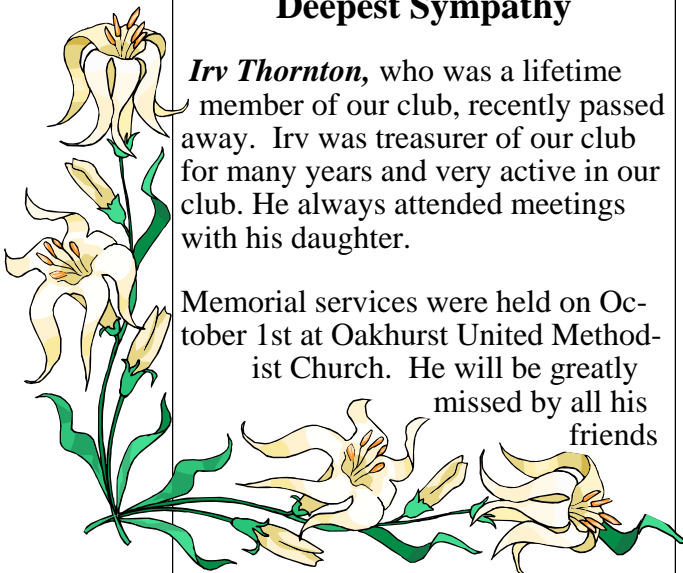
Rock and Gem Subscriptions

For those of you who asked about renewals during our recent promotion of Rock and Gem subscriptions, they will take care of it when due. You need to check the renewal box on your application form and when time is up, Rock and Gem will automatically renew your subscriptions. If you have any further questions, contact Sue Hazelden.

Deepest Sympathy

Irv Thornton, who was a lifetime member of our club, recently passed away. Irv was treasurer of our club for many years and very active in our club. He always attended meetings with his daughter.

Memorial services were held on October 1st at Oakhurst United Methodist Church. He will be greatly missed by all his friends



Welcome New Members

Kathy Kettlekamp

She lives in St Petersburg and joined SGAMS in September, 2011. Betty does some beading now but is interested in learning more about rocks, stones and gems. She also enjoys gardening and is willing to help with yard work at the clubhouse. She was referred to us by her friends, (and ours) David and Margie Kane.

Carol & Michael Kubick.

Carol has many hobbies, including but not limited to making her own jewelry, wire wrapping, crocheting and sewing. She and her husband Michael are residents of Indian Shores, but spend the summer in New Jersey. They have attended William Holland School for 8 years and really enjoyed it. Carol met Julia Larson at our show in March and said Julia was so nice to her and Michael that they are interested in taking some of Julia's classes this fall. She and Michael are looking forward to refining their skills and establishing new friends.

Donna S, Membership Chair

JEWELRY ASSEMBLY WORKSHOP

Have you got a lot of jewelry components that you never seem to have time to put together?

SGAMS has the answer!

Beginning Tuesday, October 25th, 7 p.m.
there will be a

Jewelry Assembly Workshop

on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month

This is **not** a "how to" class; it is a time to bring the components and put them together. If you have questions, there may be someone there who can answer them, but there will be no formal instruction in anything. Everyone will bring their own projects and supplies – beads, cabs, findings, etc., everything from lampwork, fine silver, to kumihimo.

The cost will \$2.50 per hour, clubhouse user fee. No registration is necessary. Just show up with your stuff and have fun.

UPCOMING SHOWS

October 22 &-23: Tampa, FL

Tampa Bay Rock and Science Club, Plant City, FL.
FLorida Strawberry Festival - Expo. Building Sat. 10am-6pm Sun. 10am-5pm

October 22-23: Plant City, FL

Tampa Bay Mineral & Science Club; Florida Strawberry Festival Expo Bldg., 2301 W. Oak Ave.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, students \$4, children under 12 free; Web site: www.tampabayrockclub.com

October 29-30: 2011: Stuart, FL

St. Lucie County Rock & Gem Club, Martin County Fairgrounds, 2616SE Dixie Hwy.(A1A) Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, children under 12 free with adult, coupon on Web site; demonstrations, displays, silent auction, raffle, about 24 dealers; Web site: slrockandgem.org

November 5-6, 2011: Melbourne, FL

Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society, Parade of Gems, Melbourne Auditorium, 625 E. Hibiscus Ave., Melbourne, FL

November 19-20, 2011: West Palm Beach, FL

45th Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches, South Florida Fairgrounds Expo Center East, 9067 Southern Blvd., West Palm Beach, FL

Dec. 2-4: Spring Hill, FL

Withlacochee Rockhounds, Inc. Gem and Mineral Show, Slovene American Club, 13383 County Line Road, Spring Hill, FL

Source: *Star-O-lite*, October 2011

Tips and Trips, October 2011



FEDERATION NEWS

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
September, 2011
www.AMFED.org

2011-12 Regional Federation Shows

California Federation

July 13-15
Riverside, CA

Rocky Mountain Federation

TBA

Eastern Federation

September 15-16
Harrisburg, PA

South Central Federation

TBA

Midwest Federation

July 26-29
Minnetonka, MN

Southeast Federation

TBA

Northwest Federation

May 18-20
Kennewick, WA



WE ARE A LOCAL NON PROFIT CLUB

The Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society
proudly presents their 42nd Annual

Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show and Sale

March 2, 3, 4, 2012
Friday & Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Continuous Working Demonstrations

- ◆ Bead Stringing
- ◆ Wirecraft
- ◆ Channel Work
- ◆ Gem Cutting
- ◆ and others



**DIAMONDS
EMERALDS
RUBIES
14K GOLD JEWELRY
DOOR PRIZES
EXHIBITS
AND
MUCH MORE....**

Directions

- ◆ Manatee Building, 6340 126th Avenue North, Largo.
- ◆ From Tampa I-275 cross Howard Franklin Bridge. At Exit 32, take a ramp (right) onto SR-688 (Ulmerton Rd). Merge onto SR-688 and keep left. Head West (under US-19) to 66th St. Turn Left (South) onto 66th St. Go to 126th Ave. N. Turn LEFT (East) onto 126th. Building is on the right.



ADMISSION

Donations: \$5.00/adult good for all three days,
Children under 6 FREE, Students with parents or I.D. Card \$4.00
\$1.00 off admission with this ad. Limit one per person.

FREE PARKING

Wanted a few good men and women....

We are scheduling a day in November to get together at the clubhouse and work on a few projects. The fall cleaning of our grounds and the clubhouse needs to be done, there are a ton of branches down in the back, a few repairs need to be continued and new projects started. More details will follow, so come to the Thursday meeting and see what is up. Right now, if you have a pickup truck, there is a pile of brush at our corner by the road and some concrete trash that needs to be hauled away. Please take as much or little as you can.

Our nice neighbor across the street has left and is no longer available to mow our yard during his exercise routine. Now, we have to take over the job ourselves. We fixed our lawnmower with a good cleaning and a tune up, and it is ready to go. Already Paul Mallory did a great job last week mowing the yard - Bucky and I have mowed too.

But, we need more volunteers to share the load. It is getting cool out so mowing only needs to be done every two to three weeks. If you can spare an hour of your time, please see me on during the meeting or send me an email. I want to get enough names so each person only needs to work once or twice a season.

Remember, we do not pay for garbage service at the clubhouse, so if you see a full can please pull the bag out, take it with you and put it with your own trash. We have plenty of extra bags as needed.

As always, if everybody does a little, then everything gets done quickly and easily.

Thanks,
Bill Schmidt

Help Needed!

I am looking for any members that have experience in sheet metal work, plastic sheet work or has an ideal or two. We are in the middle of rebuilding the 24" saw after all these years. The last thing to do, is to design and build, or have built, a protective/splash cover for it. So the planning needs to start now. The last one was Plexiglas bolted together with small right angles. We need to decide things like size, material to resist the oil, one or two pieces, how to hinge it, handles, kick stands and the like. Send me an email or better yet, come to the general meeting and see the beast for yourself.

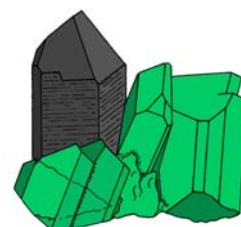
Thanks,
Bill Schmidt

Irradiated Quartz: Why is Smoky Quartz Black?

Feldspar minerals all contain *radioactive elements*. Radioactive elements are elements that break down and when they do, they give off *radiation*. Radiation can go through solid objects - like minerals and crystals! When radiation goes through quartz crystals, the clear, colorless quartz turns black. When you go to mineral shows, you will often see "Irradiated Quartz" for sale. "Irradiated Quartz" is clear, colorless quartz that has been irradiated in a laboratory. The quartz itself is natural and was mined out of the ground (usually from Arkansas or Brazil). But the color was caused - by a human in a laboratory - and not by nature. These crystals can be very attractive, but many mineral collectors don't like to collect specimens that have been changed by humans.

Don't worry about being exposed to radiation. We know that radiation can make people sick. Don't worry, though. When irradiated quartz is taken out of the laboratory, it is *not* radioactive and it cannot hurt you.

Source: Mini Miners Monthly, Vol. 5, No 10, October 2011, Diamond Dan Publications,
www.diamonddanpublications.net



Bench Tips by Brad Smith

More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/> or
<http://facebook.com/BenchTips>

Bench Tips

REMOVING A STONE FROM BEZEL SETTING

If you've forgotten to use dental floss and got your stone caught in a bezel, there's one thing you can try before starting to pry. Find some sticky wax or bees-wax. Roll it into a pencil-sized cylinder and stick the end onto the top of the stone. Mold it on well and yank.

If all else fails, you either have to very carefully pry open the bezel with a sharp knife blade or drill a small hole in back of the stone and push it out with the point of a scribe.

FOREDOM STAND

A quick and easy way to suspend a Foredom over your jewelry bench is to use some steel pipe components from your local hardware store. It attaches with a couple screws and costs a little over \$10

I use 1/2 inch galvanized pipe and fittings. To build a stand that attaches to the top of your bench, all you'll need is a flange and a thirty inch length of the pipe. If you prefer a stand that attaches to the side of your bench, you'll need a little longer pipe, three foot, a flange, and a 90 degree "street elle".

Finally, make a hook that goes into the top of the pipe to hang the motor from. You can use heavy coat hanger wire or better yet, a 1/8 steel rod from the hardware store.

In addition, you may find this news video of some interest. It's about the origins of some of the Earth's gold.

<<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2011/09/110907-gold-metals-earth-meteors-oldest-rocks-nature-science/>><http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2011/09/110907-gold-metals-earth-meteors-oldest-rocks-nature-science/>

Sources:

More BenchTips by Brad Smith <brad@greenheart.com> are at groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/ or facebook.com/BenchTips

Tips and Tricks, October, 2011

DRILLING SMALL ITEMS

When drilling a small hole into a small piece, many folks try to hold the piece by hand. But if the drill sticks, the piece will start to spin and possibly slice your finger. Having done this



occasionally in my younger days, I avoid band-aids now by using flat-jaw pliers to hold small pieces on the edge of the bench pin or on a piece of wood when using the drill press.

FROM ROUGH ROCK TO CABOCHON

For those of you who are interested in learning basic lapidary, cutting and polishing gemstones, Lapidary Journal - Jewelry Artist Magazine offers a free download of an Ebook called "The Complete Lapidary Experience: Hunt, Cut, and Set Gems".

This collection of articles takes you on a field trip to collect rough moonstone then through the cutting and polishing phases and finally to setting the stone in a piece of jewelry. Being able to cut or modify a gemstone opens up whole new areas of jewelrymaking and gives greater depth to the feeling you get when you reply "Yes, I made it myself"

Get the free E-book at:

http://jewelrymakingdaily.com/Lapidary-Hunt-Cut-Set/utm_source=megalist&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=mg1110525e

RESHAPING SILICONE WHEELS

Silicone polishing wheels in the Dremel or Foredom are a great time saver, but after using them a bit they often need to be reshaped. This is particularly true with the knife edge shaped wheels.

The natural thought is to grab one of your files and hold it up against the rotating wheel to reshape it. But this gives you a problem. The grinding grit in the silicone wheel is much harder than steel, meaning that you end up grinding down the teeth of your file.

The best way to reshape your polishing wheels is to use a diamond file. If you don't have one and must use a steel file, I sacrifice the area of the file that is closest to the handle because it's never used in normal benchwork.

Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
Board Meeting
September 2, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. Present were Pat Davis, Sue Hazelden, Bucky Joseph, Dave Watson, Dave Schwebel, Donna Remsnyder and Julia Larson. Also present was: Bill Schmidt.

The treasurer's report was presented and accepted for audit. There is no income from eBay at this time. George Comas, who is webmaster, is out of town. The property tax will be either \$1,922.21 or \$1,846.00, depending on budget changes.

Stamp Program: Robert Parker helped sort through the tub of stamps that have been donated over the past several years. Sue Hazelden also helped. The stamps were sent to the federation on June 10.

Correspondence: Dave Schwebel sent a letter of thanks to Betty Coe's family for the donations from her collection.

Membership: Carole and Michael Kulick were approved by the board.

Show: Bill reported the vendor slots are basically full and the contracts have gone out. Sue Black has volunteered to be vendor chair. Two places are being held for Lea Zinke and there is another potential vendor waiting for a space. Dave Watson will do the floor plan. Sue Hazelden suggested that the advertising budget be increased. Suggestions include: TBO.com and possibly billboards. Bill will check small local publications for deadlines. Bucky suggested advertising in the Americana Cove Mobile Home publication, Council on Neighborhood Associations publications, *Rock & Gem* magazine.

Building: Bill is repairing the lawn mower. The young neighbor across the street, Tyler Self, was paid \$25 the first time and \$35 the second time for front and back. We need volunteers from the membership to do the yard. A clean-up day in October was discussed.

Education: Julia has not been able to touch base with anyone from the Mastodon Matrix Project. Fusing classes will resume September 20.

Equipment: The 8 inch cabbng machine needs to be torn down and refurbished. The arbor on the slab saw also needs repair. The shop has been cleaned and looks great.

Historical: Donna Mallory needs help with the scrapbooking. A field trip to the Vulcan mine is planned in October. Also scheduled are trips to Graves Mountain and an amethyst mine in Jackson Crossings, about 45 minutes from Graves.

Program: *What I Did Last Summer.*

Audit: Conducted August 1st by Donna Remsnyder and Jan Rambow. No problems were noted, and the treasurer was again commended for her excellence.

Hospitality: We still need volunteers. Duties include making coffee and setting up the room for the meetings, as we are again meeting at the clubhouse.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by: *Julia Larson*, Recording Secretary

Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
General Meeting
Thursday, September 15, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm. There were 22 members and one guest. The club is still in need of an activities chair. Duties involve making coffee, setting up and taking down the chairs. Duties can be rotated if more than one person volunteers.

Sue Hazelden gave the treasurer's report.

Jay Brown donated slabs to the club.

Show: Bill Schmidt said all vendors are lined up for the 2012 show.

Building: Bill has repaired the lawn mower, and we need someone (or several someone's) to do the mowing. A sign-up sheet is posted. David Kane will help with this.

Rock & Gem magazine will pay the club \$6 for each subscription. Orders must be submitted together.

Education: Cabbage is still ongoing. Barbara Watson will teach a simple wire class on a Monday evening, 7-9 p.m. Sign-up sheet is posted.

Field Trips: Donna Mallory – Vulcan Mine, Saturday, October 8. Sign-up sheet is posted and map is available. Graves Mountain (GA) October 7-8-9. Attendance for all three days is not required. Owners will grill hot dogs and hamburgers. Also, October 6th, 45 minutes from Graves Mountain, Jackson Crossroads, amethyst mine. It is an 8 hour drive to Graves Mountain from here, 9 hours to Jackson Crossroads. Donna is going. Contact her, if you are interested.

Bucky Joseph is putting an ad about our show in the Americana Cove Mobile Home publication. If anyone is interested in doing a talk/demonstration at the park, let him know.

The raffle was held.

The program was "*What I Did Last Summer*", by various members.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Notes provided by *Cheryl Pohley*

Submitted by:

Julia Larson, Recording Secretary

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

LIQUIDATION & ESTATE SALES
BUYING HOME FURNISHINGS, JEWELRY, CARS, ETC.
APPRAISAL SERVICES



Jack Hauser
TO DISCUSS YOUR NEEDS, CALL JACK
727-520-5720

Clubhouse Class Schedules

FACETING: Mondays 6-9 p.m.
CABBING: Mondays and Wednesdays 7-9 p.m.
FUSED GLASS: Tuesdays, 1st and 3rd, 7-9 p.m.

For further information regarding other classes, contact instructors.

GLASS FUSION: Julia Larson

KUMIHIMO: (a Japanese weaving technique) Sue Black at 345-8994 or email sueblack@tampabay.rr.com

WIRE WRAPPING: Dave at 541-2971 or email bwatson1@tampabay.rr.com

METAL WORKING: Donna Remsnyder at 692-6006 or email dsr75@verizon.net

CABBING (Mon or Wed): Bucky Joseph at 525-2755 or
Donna Mallory at 941-776-9055

CABBING (Sat): Lou Codol, (727-544-3973), George Comas (727-526-7176)

Dave Schwebel (727-547-0364)



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.

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: \$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 September - May

Board Meeting:

(September - May)

First Thursday: 7:00 p.m.

Clubhouse Open:

Mondays, 7- 9 p.m.

Wednesdays, 6 - 8 p.m.

Saturday, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Faceting, Silversmithing,

Fused Glass Classes:

1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m.