

ROCK-A-GRAM



June - September, 2008



Volume 40, No. 1, Page 1

General Meeting

Thursday, September 18, 2008

7:30 p.m.

NEW LOCATION...Our Clubhouse

4619 69th Street North
St. Petersburg

SHOW AND TELL...

- ☀ Tell us about your summer vacation.
- ☀ Show us what you collected over the summer.
- ☀ Drawing - bring in donation

DUES ARE DUE!

\$15 Individuals - \$20 per family

If your last name starts with A-M, please bring goodies to our meeting.

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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

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 1144 -23rd Avenue North
 St. Petersburg, FL 33704

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 Email: sujagems1@aol.com
 4823 14th Ave. N.
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 5297 Huntington St. NE
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 15666 49th Street North #1119
 Clearwater, FL 33762

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 Email: eloster@tampabay.rr.com
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 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.

President's Message,

Welcome back everybody. I trust your summer went as well as ours at the club went! In a change from the past we stayed "open" during the time with limited hours at the clubhouse. We met new people who put in applications and hopefully will complete the process this meeting. Folks who were interested in rock and minerals and wanted to check out about what we do. Old friends that had not been around in awhile and might rejoin. And new members who became diehards, learned how to cab and finished their first (and more).

The general meeting will be held at the clubhouse just like our closing dinner was. So carpool if you can and be prepared to double up on parking. We will be parking cars in the back yard, the side and in the parking lot. Street parking is not allowed by the county so please don't ask. The meeting times will be

the same of 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. While we will not be charged extra if we do go over.

Of great note is the welcomed donation of a faceting machine from long time member Irvine Thornton and his family. The machine is in fine working order and it is being readied for classes. After a little more work we will have two full units for use. You can see more on classes inside.

Also inside you can see the list of projects that were done in the clubhouse and get the status of equipment.

The Board of Directors is working to make this a full and productive year. While a lot of our work is behind the scenes you can see results all around. If you think something needs attention or have a new ideal please feel free to bring it up to one of us. Just watch out, we may ask for your help!

Clubhouse Hours

We have set the first times of our open schedule to be on Monday evenings from 5 to 9 p.m., and on Saturday mornings from 10:00 to noon. We hope to be able to expand to more soon. These times are for using the cabbng room and as always, the needed attendant will be present. Since the meetings are now at the clubhouse also, the cabbng rooms and work rooms are not available during these meeting times.

Summer Workings

Over the summer Peter Palmer, Lou Codol, Gill Wegad, myself and others worked on different projects. We refurbished the three slabbing saws with a complete cleaning, new gaskets and standardized their parts. The 10" trim saw was done the same and has been switched to a waterbased coolant. The 6" saw and

Continued page 3

Presidents Message, continued from page 2:

arbor has a new blade and a tune up. Most everything else was cleaned, a new switch set up is on the Highland Park, the lights have been lowered and moved forward, and new rubber and felt are on the face plates. The main door was replaced, the shelves were extended by a unit and the plumbing cover was finished. Jobs will continue over the year and I am sure more things will crop up.

Classes

We are offering classes by the board members. Sue Hazelden is offering her gem tree classes, Gil Wegad is teaching faceting, Pat Davis will teach you beading and Peter Palmer and myself are available for cabbing. For now the times are all during our normal open hours but special arrangements can be made with the instructors. The costs for any, except faceting, is \$2.50 an hour plus extra supplies. Please see the instructor to set up a start date and schedule. Each class has a separate minimum.

ITEMS FOR SALE!

Dapping Punches - \$35

Set of 11

Six piece Graver Set - \$25

Electric Hot Dop - \$25

with 2 -12" sticks of dop Wax

Silversmithing Equipment - \$200

Smith Mini Torch Kit "Acetylene" complete -
New hoses and propane regulator, Melting
Dish Tong, Diamond T-Bar Dresser,
Solder Pick, Soldering Blocks,
Misc: Spray Diamond, Beeswax, Fluxite bottles
Books: Silver Smith Book, By: Rupert
Finegold, William Seitz; The Complete Metal
Smith, by Tim McCreight

Call: Debbie Bremer, 727-298-0061

I recently purchased an estate of all kinds of rough, cabs, slabs, equipment, and beautiful specimens. If you are looking for something specific give me a call, I just might have it. More sales in next months newsletter.

MAY BANQUET

Submitted by: Sue Hazelden

If I do say so myself, I think our banquet was a resounding success! Parking seemed to work out, (something we all were a little worried about.) There was plenty of good food, attendance was way up, and there were 34 members and guests who enjoyed the evening. We even had a special cake, courtesy of Julia's daughter Rebecca that read "Congratulations, we are IN." It was a little cramped, but nobody seemed to mind. It all came down to the fact that we were at last IN! Everyone was happy about that.

The new Board members were duly installed, and we awarded our first Life Membership award in many years, **Bill Schmidt**, our President was the honoree. Over the past few years he has been working diligently at the clubhouse most Mondays, repairing, making things work easier, upgrading things, building shelving, checking the machinery etc.



Congratulations Bill!

The club house was looking the best it has ever been. The decorations were made by the Banquet committee, **Pat Davis, Julia Larson** and yours truly, and looked very festive. Now we are all looking to go forward with the use of our club house, to teach some of the many facets of our hobby.



First banquet at our clubhouse...

The Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society
a local non-profit club proudly presents:
39th Annual

Gem & Mineral Show and Sale

March 6, 7, 8, 2009

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



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

ADMISSION

Adults - \$5.00 good for all three days, children under 6 FREE
Students with parents or I.D. Card \$4.00

DIRECTIONS

- Minnreg Building
6340 126th Avenue No.
Largo
- From Tampa I-275 cross
Howard Franklin Bridge.
At exit 31B, take Ramp
(right) onto SR-688
(Ulmerton Rd) Merge
onto SR-686. Bear LEFT
(West) onto SR-688
(Ulmerton Rd) turn
LEFT (South-East)
onto US-19 N. Turn
RIGHT (West) onto
126th Ave N.
- From North on US 19
take 66th Street exit go to
126th Ave., turn left.

Shows

September 26-28: Jacksonville

Jacksonville Gem & Mineral Society; Morocco Temple
3800 St. Johns Bluff Road

Hours:

Sept 26: 1-6 p.m.

Sept. 27: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sept 28: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Aluminum Cans Wanted!

Please bring your aluminum cans to the next meeting. I will take them to recycle. Bring everything you have.

Sue Hazelden



FEDERATION NEWS

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
Volume 61, Number 5, Newsletter – April, 2008
www.AMFED.org

2008-09 Regional Federation Shows & Conventions

California Federation

April 17-19, 2008
San Jose, CA

Rocky Mountain Federation

Nov. 7-9, 2008
Tulsa, OK

Eastern Federation

October 17-18, 2009
Bristol, CT

South Central Federation AFMS

Sept. 25-28, 2008
Humble, TX

Midwest Federation

May 16-17, 2009
Parma, OH

AFMS Annual Convention

Northwest Federation

July 30-Aug 2, 2009
Billings, MT

September 25-28, 2008
Humble, Texas



New Members

Steve and Thais Clayton

256 6th St NW
Largo, FL 33770

Email: sbclayton@verizon.net

Charles Erickson

11882-91st Terrace N
Seminole, FL 33772

Email: ericksonenterprises@tampabay.rr.com

Battling the Mysterious Tick

By: Steve Clayton

It's summer, and we all know that hot weather brings out all sorts of nasty bugs, ticks included.

But the kind of "tick" I'm talking about is usually found near faceting machines.

Here's the scenario: Joe Gemcutter is sitting down at his Cut-A-Gem faceting machine, blissfully trying out the latest USFG facet design using a piece of Quartz. Joe has just gotten to the final polish of the Table when the dreaded insect strikes -TICK!!!! Joe lifts the gemstone off the lap and looks at it with dismay - there is a deep scratch right across the Table! I'll leave the rest of this scenario to your imagination...

As faceters, we have all been taught that "Cleanliness Is Next To Not Having To Re-Cut", and most of us take that adage to heart. Most of us take the time to scrub our laps after we finish using them, and we religiously scrub the drain pan / splash guard (not forgetting the gate, where present!) at least every time we finish a gemstone. We even have a large selection of scrub brushes, each and every one bagged up between use and labeled with the grit number and type of lap they are used to scrub, and we consider it a badge of honor that the Fuller Brush Man not only knows us by sight, but also knows our family members and pets, and sends us cards on birthdays and holidays.

We wash down our machines, cleaning up dried-on slurry, and in general, keep everything so spanky clean that our faceting machines are usually a great deal cleaner than the plates we eat off of, and visitors to our homes have been known to remark upon the brilliantly reflected glare coming from the corner where we work our magic upon various kinds of gem rough.

Yet we still battle the Mysterious Tick.

I don't know if the same Tick visits your house, but I successfully killed a big one the other day. All my equipment is in the previously described condition, and I usually use sunglasses to cut down on the glare when I work. I was cutting a piece of blue hydrothermal Quartz in my

"Lucky 7" pattern, and I noticed that I was getting some very strange scratches when I went from a 3000 lap to a Spectra Ultra Lap. Not the first time this has happened, so I changed to a new Ultra Lap - same results. I realized I had been visited by the Mysterious Tick, and since it jumped around to various places on the Ultra Lap, I realized I had a contamination problem.

Everything got recleaned and I poured out the water in the drip tank and in my gallon jug. Drip tank and jug were taken to the sink, scrubbed, rinsed and the jug refilled with new coolant (I use 3-4 drops of Dawn to a gallon of water as my first teacher, Jerry Gaudette, taught me to do).

Back to the polishing. A fresh Spectra, a few delightfully whispery strokes across the lap, when TICK!!! - and another scratch. I went back, retraced my steps, and then it hit me.

I remembered having the same problem when I used water straight from the faucet. Hard water deposit buildup in the pipes would break free from time to time and contaminate my coolant. Never mind that the deposits were a great deal softer than anything I was cutting - all they had to do was cause the gemstone to tick on the lap and dislodge some diamond or polishing media, which would then instantly accumulate and scratch the material.

The next thing I remembered was that Thais, My-Loving-Wife-Who-Adores-The-Gemstones-I-Make, had asked me a few weeks (months?) earlier to change the cartridge on the kitchen sink water filter. Sheepishly I recalled her words to that effect, and equally sheepishly got out a new filter, installed and flushed it, cleaned and refilled the drip tank and water jug, and went back to a delightfully whispery polish, a beautifully cut gemstone and that Tick moved on to visit another unfortunate soul.

So who knew? Mysterious Ticks are allergic to clean, filtered water! Sheesh!

William Holland Lapidary Arts School

Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. (sfms@amfed.org)

Come share in a fun week at William Holland this October. The Federation week, October 12-18, is just about the perfect time to enjoy the fall foliage in the mountains. Room, board, classroom instruction and the camaraderie of rockhounds is included for the modest price of \$310.00 per week. Classes range from wirecraft to faceting. <http://www.amfed.org/sfms/william-holland-retreat.html>. This is truly camp for grown-ups. A week of play and no dishes to wash! But the real value is in the skills you can learn and the friends to meet.

2008 SFMS WORKSHOP CLASS SCHEDULE

Workshop Staff

Kathy Morris, Director
P.O.Box 913, Tryon NC 28782
Phone 828-894-6303
Email: Klmorris45@hotmail.com

Wildacres Registrar Mrs. B. J. Gearhart
P. O. Box 36
Lebanon GA 30146-9998
Phone 770-479-0963
Email: waregistrar0809@yahoo.com

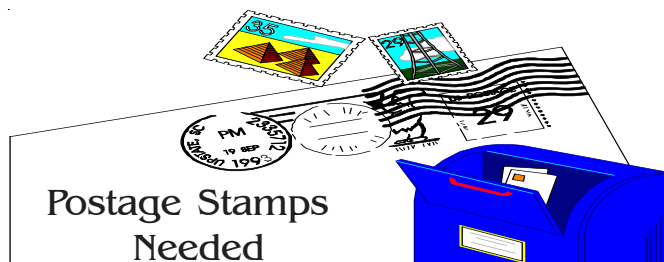
William Holland Registrar Denise Talbott
216 Springview St
Murphy NC 28906
Phone 828-494-7213
Email whregistrar@yahoo.com

Education Chair
Julia Larson
5297 Huntington St NE
St Petersburg FL 33703
Phone 727-522-1254
Email sfmsedchair@gmail.com

Classes with asterisk (*) have prerequisites. Check with instructor before registering.

SESSION FOUR - WILLIAM HOLLAND SUNDAY, October 12-18 (Julia Larson, Acting Director)

Cabochons	Anita Westlake
Chainmaking, Inter.*	Bill & Dee Conybear
Cold Connection	Kathy Morris
Faceting Two	David Corn
Fused Glass	Addy DiPietro
Gourd Carving	Pat Davis
Opal cutting	Joe DiPietro
Lost Wax Casting	John Iacullo
Digital Photography	Ken Kipnis
PMC	Pam Hall
Scrimshaw	Gino Deskins/Betty Porter
Seed Beading	Vivian Heath
Silver, beginning #1	Don & Ann Monroe
Silver, beginning #2	Dan Haga
Silver, intermediate*	Allen Jewell
Beginning Wire	Janet Corn



Please remember to bring those stamps to the meeting. Stamps must be either off the paper or neatly trimmed with 1/4" border around the stamp. discard any stamps that are torn or defaced in any manner. To remove stamps, wet envelope with a little dish soap and warm water, stamp will fall off. Place stamp upside down on paper towel to dry. Thank you.

Federation Websites:

Future Rockhounds of America
www.amfed.org
Lodestar Newsletter

www.amfed.org/sfms_lodestar_newsletter.html

EFMLS News

www.amfed.org/efmls/newsletters.htm

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!)

STAY AWAY 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 Board Meeting

September 2, 2008

Board members attending: Sue Hazelden, Sue Black, Walt Upman, Pat Davis, and Bill Schmidt.

The meeting was called to order by president, Bill Schmidt, at 7:35 p.m. The Treasurer's report was presented by Sue Hazelden and filed for audit.

Sue Hazelden reported that the audit of the 2007-2008 fiscal year has been completed and the books were found to be in order.

Sue Black submitted her resignation as Dealer Chairperson for the show.

Irv Thornton donated his lapidary equipment including a faceting machine to the club with the stipulation that it be maintained by the club and made available for his family when they want to use it. A discussion of how donations should be documented and instructions followed.

The tax notice on the clubhouse has been received and taxes are \$120 more than last year. Tax exempt status for the club was discussed again.

Committee chairmen need to be recruited for the coming year since none are in place except the building and equipment maintenance groups. Those needed are: Nominating, Audit, Show/Dealer, Education, Field Trips, Holiday Party, Library, Banquet, By-Laws and Hospitality. It was emphasized that being a committee chair doesn't mean doing all the work. It means recruiting and coordinating the activities of committee members to ensure that the job gets done. Volunteers will be sought at the next meeting.

The same people who have volunteered to teach classes at the clubhouse agreed to do so again. It was decided that classes will be scheduled on Monday evenings at the same time the cabbing shop is open (5-9 p.m.) until the demand for classes requires scheduling at other times. Students should contact instructors to verify dates.

Another job that needs to be filled is the coordinator for the Federation's stamp program. This person will forward cancelled stamps collected by club members to the Federation. Money generated by the sale of these stamps is used to award scholarships to Federation club members to attend workshops at William Holland and Wild Acres.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Davis for Julia Larson

Rock-A-Gram

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ALL OUR MEMBERSHIP TO VISIT AND PATRONIZE THEIR BUSINESSES.

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Clubhouse Class and Meeting Schedules

September 2008



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Clubhouse Open 5-9 p.m.	2	3	4	5	6 Clubhouse Open 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
7	8 Clubhouse Open 5-9 p.m.	9	10	11	12	13 Clubhouse Open 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
14	15 Clubhouse Open 5-9 p.m.	16	17	18	19	20 Clubhouse Open 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
21	22 Clubhouse Open 5-9 p.m.	23	24	25	26	27 Clubhouse Open 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
28	29 Clubhouse Open 5-9 p.m.	30				

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:

Mondays, 5 - 8 p.m.

Clubhouse Maintenance:

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

Faceting, Silversmithing:

Wire Wrapping Classes:

By appointment