

ROCK-A-GRAM



March, 2009



Volume 40, No. 7, Page 1

General Meeting

Thursday, March 19, 2009

7:30 p.m.

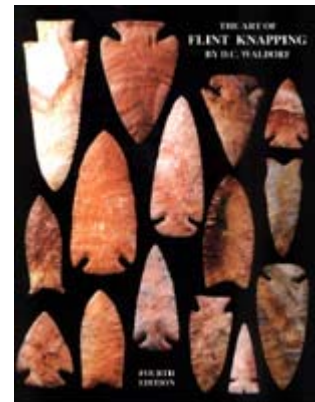
LOCATION...Our Clubhouse

4619 69th Street North
St. Petersburg

Program:

"Flint Knapping"

Presented by: Brian Evensen



Brian is an honorary member of SGAMS and will be speaking about "Quarrying the flint and other raw materials which are made into points and tools used by the native Indians."

Brian always has plenty to talk about on this subject, so prepare to ask him questions.

You can also visit Brian's shop, "Lost in Time" at the St. Petersburg Pier.



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
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 St. Petersburg, FL 33705

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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.

Presidents Message

Good day members and guests,

Our annual Show is over for this year but the work goes on and will soon start all over again for next year. If you have any observations and/or thoughts about this show please get them to any board member, Peter Palmer or myself as we want to improve next years.

Coming up in a week, on Saturday the 28th we will be holding a workday at the clubhouse and afterwards a chicken barbecue cookout. We need to do some repairs on the fence and gate, some yard work cleaning up, some continuing work on the gutters and soffit and a general cleaning of the place inside. Donna Remsnyder will provide the chicken, the club will provide the drinks and place settings and if you want to bring a side dish that would be great. More information at the meeting.

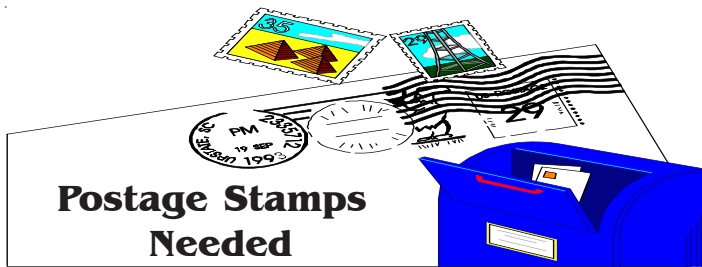
We will be opening the clubhouse for a third session after the general meeting. Most likely it will be on Wednesday night probably around dinner time for a few hours. If you have a strong preference for time or days get with a board member and be heard. Were working around our schedules and want to know what is best for you.

See you at the meeting. (Come early to get a seat as we have 5 new members/applications from the show).

Bill Schmidt
 President

2010 Board Nominations

Bill Schmidt, President
Donna Remsnyder, Vice President
Sue Hazelden, Treasurer
Julia Larson, Recording Sec.
Walt Upman, Corr. Sec.
Dave Watson, 3 yr. Director
George Comas, 2 yr. Director
Homer Rankhorn, 1 yr. Director
Don Schlough, Director



Please remember to bring those stamps to the meeting and give to **Walt Upman**. 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.

NEW MEMBERS

William Turner
1817 Oak Trail West
Clearwater, FL 33764
727-559-1008

Gem and Mineral Shows

Source: Tips and Trips, March, 2009

March 13-15: Augusta, GA

Aiken Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Society and
Augusta Gem and Mineral Society
21st Annual Aiken-Augusta Gem and Mineral Show
Julian Smith Casino, 2200 Broad Street
Hours: 13th & 14th, 10:00 A.M.- 7:00 P.M.
15th, 11:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

March 28-29: Orlando

Central Florida Mineral and Gem Show
Central Florida Fairgrounds
4630 W. Colonial Drive
Hours: 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.

April 4: Dothan, Alabama

2nd Annual Show Dothan Gem and Mineral Club
4329 S. Brannon Strand Road, at Hwy 52W
Hours: 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.

FEDERATION NEWS

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
December, 2008 - January, 2009

www.AMFED.org

2009-10 Regional Federation Shows & Conventions

California Federation

April 17-19, 2008
San Jose, CA

Rocky Mountain Federation

TBA

Eastern Federation

October 17-18, 2009
Bristol, CT

South Central Federation

AFMS
October 10-11, 2009
Temple, TX

Midwest Federation

May 16-17, 2009
Parma, OH

AFMS Annual Convention

TBA

Northwest Federation

July 30-Aug 2, 2009
Billings, MT

Federation Websites:

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

www.amfed.org

Lodestar Newsletter

www.amfed.org/sfms_lodestar_newsletter.html

Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies

www.amfed.org/sfms

Club House Clean-Up

We will have a Clean-up Day of clubhouse on

Saturday, March 28th

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Chicken BBQ will follow. Donna will donate chicken. Come on out and help us clean up!

Field Trip - Ft. Drum Pit

April 16-19, 2009

8-5 p.m.

WHAT: Fossil, calcite, and combination fossil/calcite collecting trip

ITEMS COLLECTED: There are well-fossilized and calcified marine shells. The sand and shell matrix rock is in the Nashua Formation (Pleistocene) and is composed of well-calcified shells. Any cavities within these fossils may contain calcite crystals. Honey colored calcite crystals up to 1" in length can be found within large fossilized clamshells. Small calcite crystals within shells are very common. Fossilized bone and teeth, although rare, can also be found at this location. Limit: (1) 5 gal bucket and 1 metric per person.

WHAT TO BRING: Bring your rock hammers, chisels, and other tools. You must wear long pants and gloves. Packing a cooler is a good idea also.

CAMPING AVAILABLE:

Camping will be available for \$25.00 per site per night. The water may be portable, but to be sure, bring some water for cooking and drinking.

DIRECTIONS:

Ft. Drum is on Hwy 441 approximately 15 miles south of the intersection of Hwy 60 and 441 (Yeehaw Junction). Go south of Ft. Drum General Store about 0.5 mile and turn east on 304th St. Go about 2.75 miles to the quarry entrance (north side of the road). Look for the Fort Drum Crystal Mine at the entrance.

More information call: Eddie at 813-634-4579



Show News

Another show is in the books! While the final figures are not yet in, we know that we are safely in the black. Even with the down turn in attendance, I guess the beautiful weather was a bigger draw, it was a good show. Interestingly we had a huge crowd on Friday and people were still coming in the door at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. Those are two things that never happened before. Also of great note is the list of volunteers that gave their time and talents to put our show on. All who could spend their hours in moving, set-up, breakdown, working the club tables, information booth, ticket booth and hospitality during the show the Board and I thank you. Let's not forget all the work behind the scenes: The copy work and printing, the days of sorting and pricing, the sorting, typing, printing, and stamping of 860 mail cards, the flier and card distributing, the case layout and assembling, dealer contacts, floor plans, art work, purchasing and stocking, and even the cooking. Can you help next year? We already have the 2010 Minnreg Building contract and it will be discussed at the April Board meeting. And the preparations continue from there....

Bill Schmidt, President

Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
Minutes of General Meeting
February 19, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President, Bill Schmidt, at 7:45 p.m.

New members and guests were introduced. There were 29 members and 3 guests present.

The Treasurer's report was read and filed for audit.

Donna Remsnyder presented the report of the By-Laws committee. Don Schlough moved that proposed revisions be adopted, Donna Remsnyder seconded and the motion carried.

Bill Schmidt reported on activities of the show committee including post card mailings, advertising efforts, security and asked for volunteers to work at the show.

Laura Parrish agreed to assume the duties of Librarian.

The annual auction followed the conclusion of the business part of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Davis for Julia Larson



Aluminum Cans Wanted!

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

Sue Hazelden



Other Resources

Bob's Rock Shop - www.rockhounds.com

Gene McDivett's Miner and Cutter of Koroit boulder Opal and Other curious stones - www.koroit.com

FDJ Tools - www.fdjtools.com

Crisson Gold Mine, Dahlonega, GA
www.crissongoldmine.com

Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

Minutes of Board Meeting

March 3, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were Bill Schmidt, Peter Palmer, Sue Hazelden, Sue Black, Dave Watson, Homer Rankhorn, and Julia Larson. Also present were members Donna Remsnyder, and Martha Rankhorn.

The treasurer's report was read and accepted for audit. Peter explained some changes in the Minnreg contract, which were to our advantage. Some of the savings may be applied to the outstanding loan after the show. This was tabled until the April board meeting. Discussion re changing money market account to a CD with a better interest rate.

Mr. Schuh filed papers in February on our tax exempt application and is in contact with the tax office to make sure this is being done properly. No decision will be made until early summer, for taxes due in November.

Discussion on returning to our former practices of awarding a savings bond to the Science Fair winner and awarding a partial scholarship to a Federation workshop. No decision.

Property insurance is due March 15. Policy still does not cover wind damage from a *named* storm.

St. Petersburg Times ad for the show is \$300 less than last year. Bill said, if we complete a SPT credit application, they will bill us. He paid on his personal credit card this year, and Sue will reimburse him.

Old Business: Clubhouse silver room needed new lock and keys. Board agreed to limit the number of keys to Bill, Peter and Sue Hazelden. One of these individuals will be present to unlock the door for classes. Donna has done a complete inventory of tools and equipment, and will give Bill a list and photos for insurance purposes. Faceting machine: Peter said Gil Wegand says the one we bought is OK and we may be able to sell the old one.

Board members for the upcoming year will be published in this issue (March) of the Rock-A-Gram and announced and introduced at the March general meeting. Voting will take place in April, with installation of the new officers at the May dinner meeting.

Materials for juniors were discussed. We hope to have these materials available for sale at the 2010 show.

A new member, **William Turner**, was accepted by the board.

Discussion of opening the clubhouse for an additional day was postponed for the time being.

Show: Martha has T-shirts for club members to purchase and wear to the show. Sue Hazelden will get 250 copies of the revised "Who We Are" flyer for the show, along with applications for membership. Also discussed: set-up, cases, plaque, ribbons, prizes, raffle, pricing of equipment, rocks and slabs for club booth, calendar and contract for 2010 show (1st weekend in March).

Clean-up Day for clubhouse: Saturday, March 28, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Chicken BBQ will follow. Donna will donate chicken.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

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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ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS: \$25.00/year for full space - \$12.50/year for half space

Clubhouse Class and Meeting Schedules

 **MARCH**



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday 1
2	3 Board Meeting 7:30 - 9 p.m.	4	5	6	7 Clubhouse Open 10 a.m -1 p.m.	8
9 Clubhouse Open 5-9 p.m.	10	11	12	13	14 Clubhouse Open 10 a.m -1 p.m.	15
16 Clubhouse Open 5-9 p.m.	17	18	19 General Meeting 7:30 p.m.	20	21 Clubhouse Open 10 a.m -1 p.m.	22
23 Clubhouse Open 5-9 p.m.	24	25	26	27	28 Clubhouse Open 10 a.m -1 p.m.	29
30 Clubhouse Open 5-9 p.m.	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 our clubhouse 4619 69th Street North, St. Petersburg. 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 - 9 p.m.

Clubhouse Maintenance:

Saturday, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Faceting, Silversmithing:

Wire Wrapping Classes:

By appointment