

# ROCK-A-GRAM



December, 2013



Volume 45, No. 4, Page 1

## SGAMS Holiday Dinner

Thursday, December 19, 2013

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

### Location:

#### **Pasadena Steak House**

1530 Pasadena Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, FL (Across from Palms of Pasadena Hospital)



### Menu Choices

Prime Rib (8 oz.) \$16.95, Lamb Shank \$13.95,  
Stroganoff \$12.95, 1/2 Broiled Chicken \$12.95, Salmon \$17.95

Please email [glassgal0947@gmail.com](mailto:glassgal0947@gmail.com) or call 727-410-3781  
with your choice no later than Sunday December 15).

If you wish to participate in a gift exchange, bring a \$5.00 gift.

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

### **GRAB BAGS**

We are ready to put the grab bags for the show together. So, please mark your calendars for **January 18th, 9 a.m.**, at the clubhouse. We will need all hands on deck to make it go quickly. Don't forget, and please come out and help!

*Sue Hazelden*

## Board Members

*Julia Larson*, President. ... .. 727-522-1254  
Email: glassgal0947@gmail.com

*Dave Schwebel*, Vice President .. ... 727-547-0364  
Email: dschwebel@tampabay.rr.com

*Jerri Heer*, Treasurer. . . . . 419-344-9999  
Email: jheerx6@aol.com

*Geri Groves*, Recording Secretary 727-656-0322  
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*Donna Sapp*, Correspondence  
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*Pat Davis*, 2 Year Director ... .. 727-323-2147  
Email: wayouttamygourd@yahoo.com

*Rose LaBranche*, 1 yr. Director.. ... 727-742-3053  
Email: rlabranche@tampabay.rr.com

*Dave Watson*, 3 yr. Director. . . . . 727-541-2917  
Email: bwatson1@tampabay.rr.com

*Holly Dodson*, 1 yr. Director ... .. 813-928-0372  
Email: prozac282@tampabay.rr.com

*Debbie Bremer*, Editor . . . . . 727-458-8767  
Rock-A-Gram Newsletter  
Email: bremerlapidary@yahoo.com

**SGAMS Clubhouse Address: 4619 69th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL 33709, [www.sgams.com](http://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

I'm sitting here surrounded by catalogs, in the midst of doing my Christmas shopping. I hit a few stores early on (but *never ever* on Black Friday!) and decided to save feet, gas, and frustration by doing the bulk of my shopping online. It's hard to get in a holiday shopping mood when you're wearing shorts and flip-flops. You may revel in this weather, but I'm longing for a weeks-long blast of arctic air...or at least a spate of temperatures in the low 70's. C'mon, Mother Nature, give us a break.

Can you believe our luck in being the recipient of TWO big donations this year? Our sheds needed to be cleaned out and readied for storing our new treasures. Many thanks to Jerri Heer, who organized this work project and saw it through; and to Shamus Walker, Sheila & John Hager, Sue Hazelden, Marie Wood, Bill Schmidt, Patricia Goff-Erdman for giving up their Sunday to get this done. We're not finished though - there will be more opportunities to help in the near future, so if you missed this one, stay tuned.

Our holiday dinner at the Pasadena Steak House is December 19. If you haven't done so already, please let me know your menu choices. They are: Prime Rib (\$16.95); Lamb Shank (\$13.95); Stroganoff (\$12.95); ½ Broiled Chicken (\$12.95); and Salmon (\$17.95). We need to give the restaurant an approximate head count and selection by the beginning of next week. You can email me at [glassgal0947@gmail.com](mailto:glassgal0947@gmail.com), or call at 727-410-3781. Leave a message if I don't answer.

I wish each of you a safe, peaceful and happy holiday season and good things for the coming year.

*Julia Larson*  
President

## Monthly “Bench Tips”

By: Brad Smith

Canaveral Moonstone, December 2013

Brad Smith is moderator of LAROCKS and teaches jewelry making in Santa Monica, California. I am on Brad's email list and will be receiving Bench Tips every month.



### MINI DRILL PRESS:

If you find yourself drilling a number of small holes for your work, you might want to look at the small, inexpensive drill presses now available. They take up just minimal space on your bench and are always ready to give you nice straight holes. Some models even have a variable speed control. I've been very pleased with a low-priced one that's been well-used in my classes for over a year.

Because these machines are only a foot high, they're limited as to the size of workpieces that can fit into the machine and the size of the drill bits you can use. But I've had no problems with drill bits up to about 3/16" (4.5mm), even drilling steel.

The machines are sold by a number of companies. If you do get one, be sure to buy a spare belt because they are generally not available at local hardware stores.

### LASER WELDING:

A question came up this week about how to solder some jump rings to hold blue topaz brio-lettes onto a necklace. We've all heard about ways to do some soldering close to a stone, and some of us have sized a ring without taking the stones out of their mounts. We've used wet paper towels, garnet sand, cooling gels, and my favorite of suspending the stone in a dish of water. All techniques bank on the principal of using a small, hot flame to do the job quickly before the stone gets hot enough to crack or change color.

But each job is somewhat of a gamble. Some stones are hardy and some are frail. Jades and jaspers will generally take a lot of heat, but I'd never chance it with the likes of topaz or opal. Trying to shield a stone from the torch is always a betting game, and sometimes you lose.

If you're worried about soldering something close to a stone, perhaps it's time to consider a no-heat method like laser welding. Most jewelry stores have laser welders these days, and the cost of having it done is quite affordable. They used to have problems doing silver, but now seem to do it routinely.

I've used a local shop twice in the last year, once for a piece with little emeralds a "friend" asked me to repair and for a second piece where I needed a safety catch and didn't want the torch heat to expose all the solder lines again.



More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at [groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/) or [facebook.com/BenchTips/](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips/) or see the book “Bench Tips for Jewelry Making” on Amazon

## Upcoming Shows

www.rockandgem.com, Canaveral Moonstone, September 2013

### January 10, 11, 12: Largo

Annual Show, Pinellas Geological Society; Largo Cultural Center; Parkside Room, 105 Central Park Drive, Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sunday 12-5 p.m., free admission, donations accepted.

### February 2-3: Panama City, FL

Panama City Gem and Mineral Show  
American Legion Building at Bay County Fairgrounds, 2230 East 15th Street and Sherman Avenue

### February 8-10: Cocoa, FL

Central Brevard Rock & Gem Club  
Kiwanis Island Park  
Contact: Erleen Estes, (321) 514-8775  
Feb 22, Lakeland, FL

### February 22: Lakeland, FL

Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society  
175 Lake Hollingsworth Dr.  
Lakeland, FL 33801  
Email: IBVGMFS@gmail.com



**Happy  
Holidays!**

## Other Web Sites:

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

Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies Website at: <http://www.amfed.org/sfms> Check this site out for Wildacres & William Holland information

The URL for CMGS web site is:  
<http://www.canaveral-mgs.com/>

## FEDERATION NEWS

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
June, 2013  
www.AMFED.org

## 2013-14 Regional Federation Shows and Conventions

### California Federation

May 30 - June 1, 2014  
Pomona, CA

### Eastern Federation

March 29-30, 2014  
Plymouth Mtg, PA

### Midwest Federation

October 18-19, 2014  
Des Moines, IA

### Northwest Federation

August 15-17, 2014  
Hermiston, OR

### Rocky Mountain Federation

July 9-13, 2014  
Tulsa, OK

### South Central Federation

August 9-10, 2014  
Baton Rouge, LA

### Southeast Federation

TBA

## Some links to help you keep track of upcoming shows:

<http://www.rockngem.com/showdates>

<http://www.jewelrystowguide.com/event/>

WE ARE A LOCAL NON-PROFIT CLUB

**The Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society**  
www.sgms.com

*44th Annual*  
**Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show and Sale**

**March 7, 8, 9, 2014**  
Friday & Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Sunday, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Minnreg Building  
6340 126th Avenue North  
Largo, FL

*At Our Show This Year:*

- ◆ Gem Mining
- ◆ Silent Auction
- ◆ Working Demonstrations
- ◆ and much more

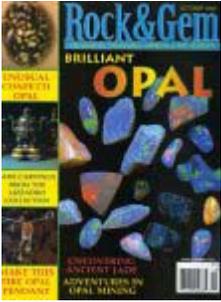


DIAMONDS    EMERALDS    RUBIES  
 14K GOLD JEWELRY    EXHIBITS    BEADS  
 DOOR PRIZES AND MUCH MORE....

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**ADMISSION**

FREE PARKING   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 adult admission with this ad. Limit one per person.   FREE PARKING



### Great Offer From Rock & Gem

If you order your subscription through the club, submitted as a group, you get a discount of \$5.00 off the annual price of \$27.95 and the club gets a \$6.00 share back per subscription. If you order two years, it's \$38.95, so you save even more and the club gets \$12.00. This works for a new subscription or a renewal. If interested, contact *Jerri Heer*, 419-344-9999, Email: [jheerx6@aol.com](mailto:jheerx6@aol.com).

### Show News

The first batch of fliers is printed and were given out at the Frank Cox show over Thanksgiving and at a club show. Another batch is in the works. I am still looking for help to do the computer typing on last years grand prize entry cards. If you have and can use Excel please get in touch with me.

The sign up sheets for the show are beginning to fill and we are at 50% covered. They are at the clubhouse now and I'll bring them to the dinner. Remember we need to fill them all first, then the spaces for Demonstrators will be opened to sign up. So let me review two of the available work positions that we have. First up, in fact right as you come in the door, is our Ticket Booth. It is pretty much what you think: you take the entry donations from the public and hand them tickets. For entry we ask \$5.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children. One of our fliers or newspaper ads gives an adult a discount of \$1.00 off. We do not discount a child's entry. They get an adult or child entry ticket and we keep half of it to call the hourly drawings and they keep half for that and for re-entry. An entry is good for all three days and they just have to show their ticket when coming back. The fliers and ads are kept and sorted to see how well our advertising went. A grand prize ticket is given for them to fill out and put into the "lottery drum". So the job is handling money, a little math, tickets given out and a lot of explaining. At times it can be very fast so it is needed to have two people at all times.

Next down the line is the Information Booth. Again self-explanatory: you tell people about the show, about us, sell grab bags and magazines, give out application to join SGAMS, help with the hourly drawing and assist the public in any way that you can. Here it is best for members that have the gift of gab and can get folks to open up. With the addition of Gem Mining and Silent Auction this year some extra explaining will be included so expect to be busy.

Our next meeting is not scheduled as of writing this. By Holiday Dinner time it will be and you can find out then. Of course you can always call or email me. You can use the information from the roster or by [SGAMS-gemshow@gmail.com](mailto:SGAMS-gemshow@gmail.com). We will be covering the general updates of where everybody is at, covering new items and probably some refurbishment work. Anybody is welcome to come.

Thanks, *Bill Schmidt*

### Faceting Equipment For Sale

**\$1,200 OBO** for Everything

If you are just starting your faceting work, this is a great opportunity. Graves Mark I faceting machine, trim saw with motor, Gryphon lapidary workshop, Australian Opals, Jars of Mexican Fire Opal, Fire Agate, white opals, small drawers with various faceting materials, extra grinding wheels, gem books, and much more.



**Call: Max, 813-909-1411**  
Lutz, FL



**Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.****Board Meeting**

November 7, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7: 00 p.m.

Board members in attendance were: Julia Larson, Jerri Heer, Dave Schwebel, Dave Watson, Donna Sapp, Rose LaBranche, Pat Davis, Holly Dodson, and Gerri Groves. Also present was Bill Schmidt.

The following reports were discussed: Secretary report, motion by Jerri Heer to accept as published. Motion Carried. Treasurers report, need to have two people do the yearly audit of the banking accounts. Holly Dodson and Sue Hazelden were nominated to do this. Equipment, new wheels and supplies were purchased for the shop. Building, paper supplies for the shop and the club house. Jerri Heer said that she has been taking care of this. We also need people to set up chairs for the club meeting and also to clean up after the meeting. Hospitality, Where to have the Christmas party? Julia will get in touch with Harold Seltzer for the night of Dec 19<sup>th</sup>.

The purchase of storage shed was discussed; no decision was made at this time.

Show Business, as of today's date 77 tables have been filled.

No new business.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

**Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.****General Meeting**

November 21, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7: 00 p.m.

Secretary's report - Motion by Sue Hazelden to accept the minutes of the October meeting as published in Rock-A-Gram. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report approved. Membership - no new members this month.

Building - the big saw is set up for use. Equipment: Purchased new wheels, repair kit and oil for the shop.

Donation: we have not heard any more as to when we will receive this, we are asking for 5 gal buckets and milk crates to store these in.

This year's Christmas Party will be at the Pasadena Steak House on December 19th.

Tonight's program is Fossil's in Florida, presented by Brian Evensen.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by:

*Gerri Groves*, Recording Secretary

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

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### Clubhouse Class Schedules

(As of September 5, 2013)

**CABBING:** Tuesdays, 6:30 - 9 p.m.

*Dave Schwebel* (727) 547-0364 or [dschwebel@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:dschwebel@tampabay.rr.com)

Wednesdays, (1st and 3rd 12-4 p.m., 2nd and 4th 12-4 and 6 - 9 p.m.)

*Jerri Heer* (419) 344-9999 or [jheerx6@aol.com](mailto:jheerx6@aol.com)

**ENAMELING:** Wednesdays, 12 - 4 p.m.

*Pat Davis* (727) 323-2147 or [wayouttamogourd@gmail.com](mailto:wayouttamogourd@gmail.com)

*Sandy Schwebel* [dschwebel@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:dschwebel@tampabay.rr.com)

**FACETING/WIREWRAPPING:** Mondays, 6-9 p.m.

*Dave Watson* (727) 541-2917 or [bwatson1@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:bwatson1@tampabay.rr.com)

**FUSED GLASS:** Contact instructor\*

*Julia Larson* (727) 410-3781 or [glassgal0947@gmail.com](mailto:glassgal0947@gmail.com)

**GEM TREES:** *Jerri Herr* (419) 344-9999 or [jheerx6@aol.com](mailto:jheerx6@aol.com)

**KUMIHIMO:** Contact instructor\*

*Sue Black* (727)345-8994 or [sueblack@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:sueblack@tampabay.rr.com)

**OPEN STUDIO:** First Tuesday of each month, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

*Don Roberts* [flmetalmn@yahoo.com](mailto:flmetalmn@yahoo.com)

Cost for classes (except faceting) is \$2.50 per hour plus any additional supplies.

\*Please contact instructor to set up start date and schedule. Each class has a separate minimum number

# **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:**

Tuesdays, 6:30 - 9 p.m.

Wednesdays (see schedule)

#### **Faceting/Wirewrapping Classes:**

Mondays, 6-9 p.m.

#### **Open Studio:**

First Tuesday/month

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.