

ROCK-A-GRAM



December 2024

Volume 90

Season's Greetings!

As the year winds down and the holiday spirit fills the air, we find ourselves reflecting on the moments that brought us together, the joys we shared, and the challenges we overcame. This season is a reminder of the warmth of community, the magic of giving, and the beauty of simple pleasures—like a quiet evening by the fire or the laughter of loved ones.

Whether you're decking the halls, lighting candles, or simply savoring a moment of peace, we wish you a holiday season filled with love, light, and lasting memories. Here's to a joyful December and a bright year ahead!

Submissions to Newsletter

If possible, please send all submissions for the newsletter by the Friday before the general meeting.

This will allow for the creation and publication of the newsletter by that Sunday evening, which is our deadline.

Thank you!

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President's Message

Ho! Ho! Ho! Merry Christmas!

No matter what or how you celebrate (or don't) this time of year I hope you find the parts that bring you joy and savor those moments.

Is it jumping in the middle of all the holiday hoopla with kids or grand kids, enjoying a quiet moment in front of the fireplace (even if you do have to turn on the A/C), sharing Christmas cookies with friends, finishing up the two hundred fiftieth rum ball for all those people who keep bringing the tins from last year back hoping you will fill them again? Or maybe it's something as simple as not having to shovel snow. Now that's a winner! And yes, I've done it.

I hope your holidays are filled with everything that makes them special for you.

Pat



MEETING

Next Meeting:

Thursday, January 16th

During the Covid pandemic we did away with having members bring snacks for after the meeting. Everybody was so conscious of every possible source of germs. Now that we aren't wearing masks all the time we can get back to bringing treats to share.

If your last name begins with A-M please bring snacks for the meeting. Next month the L-Z people will have a chance to WOW us with their choices.

General meetings are held the third Thursday of each month, September through April, 7:00 pm, at our clubhouse, 4619 69th St. N., St. Petersburg, FL 33709.

The public is cordially invited to attend these membership meetings.

December and May meetings are special, and as such, the time and place of meeting will be announced ahead of time in a bulletin.



SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING

Thursday, September 19th, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Club President, Pat Davis.

Board members present were Shamus, Pat, Otis, Linda, Joann, Brenda, Kelly, Sandra W., Mike M., Karen K. and Susan C.

Reports of Officers

Secretary — Minutes not published, not approved.

Treasurer — Treasurer's report accepted for audit.

Reports of Committee Chairs

Activities — On the third Thursday of December, Dec. 19th, we will hold our Holiday dinner at 6:00pm. Joann is checking with Quaker Steak on this. It will be announced at the General meeting.

Also discussed was the outstanding opportunity to set up a wire wrapping class with Karen Kulas, more information to come on that.

Show — There is a need for a 2025 Show Chairperson, this will be brought up at the upcoming General Meeting. The club members need to step up to choose the many different jobs needed to help the 2025 show to become a success.

Equipment — Shamus Walker brought up the need to purchase a safe for the clubhouse. This motion, seconded by Brenda, was approved with a limit of 275.00 to purchase.

Building — Still on-going, need for inspection/repair quotes for repair of soffits around the club house building.

New Business — Pat D. discussed purchasing a hot water heater for the club house, this discussion will be tabled until next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Submitted by: Susan Clark, Recording Secretary





SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.
NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, September 19th, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Club President, Pat Davis.

Reports of Officers

Secretary — Minutes not published, not approved.

Treasurer — A motion to accept the treasurer's report, read by Shamus, and file for audit was approved.

New Members — Welcome to new members, Nick and Melody.

Reports of Committee Chairs

Building — Shamus brought up the need for club members to volunteer for the building committee.

Show — Ongoing need for a club member to volunteer for the 2025 Annual Club Show as the Show Chairperson. There will be a sign-up sheet for volunteers to start signing up for the many jobs to do before, after and during the show.

Also, the club needs to update all the various committees within the club with the correct club members.

Membership— Dues are due by December 1, 2024, the dues are 25.00 single and 35.00 family.

Activities—The December Holiday Dinner will be held at Quaker Steak (same as last dinner), this year. More information to come on this.

Presentation — The meeting ended with a wonderful presentation by Josh Strigel on his rock hounding trips out west and the people and places he came across on his travels. His focus was primarily on Thundereggs, with many specimens to show and sell. Josh has a YouTube channel that chronicles some of those trips called <https://www.youtube.com/@ocklawahaboyrocks>.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Submitted by:
 Susan Clark, Recording Secretary





SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.
DECEMBER BOARD MEETING Part 1

Thursday, December 5th, 2024

The Attendance:

JoAnn Knoss, Brenda Smith, Karen Kulas, Pat Davis, Kelly Nolen, Shamus Walker, and Mike McSunas

Meeting called to order at 7 PM.

Treasurer's report by Shamus

Shamus made a motion to renew our CD in Jan and to add more money from savings in a new CD in April seconded by Karen, the motion passed.
 Shamus made a motion to raise all shop fees from \$3/hour to \$4/hour on Jan. 1st and raise them to \$5/hour in July. Motion was not seconded, so motion failed.
 Shamus made a motion to raise all shop fees to \$4/hour on Jan. 1 st , seconded by Brenda, the motion passed.

Announcement: Larry will no longer be able to monitor Thursday's open shop. There was no discussion about who would fill in.

There was discussion surrounding preparation for our show in March. There are stones that should be cut and polished for the club table. Without a show chair, all the jobs/tasks are divided up by members. We need everyone to step up.

Show Committee: Brenda, the vendor chair, gave a deposit to Shamus. We currently have almost all the tables sold. We have 2 new dealers: one amber and one bead vendor. She still needs help with a layout for the tables.

It was decided that we would have show meeting at the next general meeting so we can set dates for task completion and to figure out how this will work without a show chair. We are also in desperate need of someone to take over advertising for the show.

Building Committee: We are in desperate need of new members. Repairing the soffits is still on the list of things to be done.

Hospitality Committee: JoAnn submitted receipts for reimbursement for treats. Shamus made a motion to reimburse JoAnn, Brenda seconded the motion, motion passed. In the future, in order to save money, we are requesting that people volunteer to bring treats.



Part 1/2



SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.
DECEMBER BOARD MEETING Part 2

Thursday, December 5th, 2024

Board Nominations for 2025: We are quickly approaching the time to consider who will volunteer for the next Board. We need volunteers by February, and we vote in April. The new Board is installed in May. Please consider becoming a board member for next year.

Brochures for Club information table, Kelly shared some ideas for updated brochures, one suggestion was for a rack card. After discussion, it was agreed that Kelly should speak with Susan Clark and bring ideas and pricing to the next board meeting for approval.

Equipment: Mike discussed the need for some parts for the Vibrolap. Mike made a motion to spend up to \$300 to purchase the necessary equipment and items. Karen seconded; motion passed.

There was discussion about why the new wheels aren't on the machines in the lapidary shop. However, it seems that Larry put the new wheels on earlier that day, and the problem was solved!!!

There was also discussion about the purchase of anti-fatigue mats for the machines. This will be considered at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned

Submitted by Karen Kulas

Part 2/2



DECEMBER HOLIDAY DINNER



Class Schedules & Info

Clubhouse Class Schedules - By Reservation Only

CABBING, Workshop & Instruction: Thursdays 12 to 4pm

Larry Murray (727) 686-1314

Must receive a text request by Tuesday Evening.

Saturday Cab Shop hours are suspended until further notice.

In cabbing, participants will learn the basics of cutting, forming, and polishing a simple cabochon.

FACETING/WIRE WRAPPING: Tuesdays, 6 to 9 pm

Dave Watson 727-608-3661 or sgams2020@gmail.com

Faceting is the art of cutting and polishing angled faces on a gemstone; this class is at a cost of \$65.00 and the student will cut and polish one round brilliant stone.

Wire wrapping basic class allows you to set precious and semi-precious gemstones into simple metal frameworks made out of copper, silver, gold, and other materials.

SILVERSMITHING: Tuesdays, 6 to 9 pm and Saturdays 1 to 5 pm

Joe Cooper 317-775-5476 or sgams2020@gmail.com

Silversmithing class is to help with foundational silversmithing skills and finishing suitable for the novice or those with limited experience.

WAX CASTING: By Reservation, announced by Email Blast to All Members

Joe Cooper 317-775-5476 or sgams2020@gmail.com

Wax casting is a \$50.00 class which includes one 3 inch flask, in two sessions, which involve investing spruced trees in preparation for the burnout process and then melting and pouring into the remaining cavity to produce the cast pieces. Finishing of the cast pieces is minimal and participants are encouraged to attend the silversmithing lab if they would like help in this last stage.



Be aware of scams!

We have had reports of some of our club members being reached out to by scammers. These scammers are pretending to be club members or leaders and are asking for gift cards. We want to emphasize that no SGAMS member will ever ask you for gift cards.

Be aware of these 4 common scams

"I thought it was someone from the bank!"

Scammers are professional imposters. They'll pretend to be a relative, a utility company or even Bank of America.

"They said I had an overdue bill."

Scammers want to make you panic and overreact without thinking. A loved one in trouble, a late bill or an amazing deal are all tactics to throw you off.

"She needed my account info right away."

Scammers will want your money fast. They'll tell you to send funds immediately, often via wire transfer or payment apps, where the money is unlikely to be recovered.

"He was so friendly."

Scammers often use social media to deceive. They'll try to befriend you, strike up a relationship, then hit you with exclusive "insider" deals and get-rich-quick schemes.

Please be aware of these scammers.

Do not send them gift cards or money.

Please reach out to us and inform us if you receive an email along these lines.

Included are some tips for scams in general. Be safe, be smart!

Buying a gift card to pay someone? Stop! It's a scam.

Gift cards are for gifts, not payments.



Report gift card scams at:

[ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/ReportFraud.ftc.gov)

For more information, visit:

[Ftc.gov/giftcards](https://www.ftc.gov/giftcards)



FEDERAL TRADE
COMMISSION

Hurricane Insurance Tip

Friends,

After the recent disaster that has affected a lot of us and dealing with the insurance companies, it has come to my attention that a lot of us are being taken advantage of by these companies due to lack of understanding of our rights.

Once you receive a check the insurance becomes obligated to explain how they arrived at the amount that they are paying you. This would include what your deductibles are and a lot of times the amount of depreciation applied to your personal property is way too high. The bottom line is how much they are going to reimburse you for your lost items.

This is where they hope you just accept what they offered and you go away. What you should do is send them an email politely explaining that you think that their depreciated value is too high and that it is impossible to replace your lost items with the amount of funds being offered and ask them to please review the amount of depreciation assigned to your property. If you don't ask for more money you will not get it.

Good luck,
Joe





Closing Notes & Info

This is the official newsletter of the
SUNCOAST GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.,
 located at 4619 69th St. N., St. Petersburg, FL 33709.

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.

Dues: \$25.00 for a single person or \$35.00 for a couple/family; paid annually and collected each September.

Benefits: Our club offers shop time to its members at a cost of \$3.00 per hour or any part of the hour. Classes are open-shop with a monitor to provide assistance as needed.

Handling Donations:

Donors are encouraged to bring their donations to the clubhouse during board meetings (first Thursday of each month, September through May), or to membership meetings (third Thursday of the month, September through May).

Please do not leave unidentified items at the clubhouse at other times.

Julia Larson is the point person for donations and will be available following each of these meetings to accept and record donor and donation information. Donors can contact Julia at: jmlsgams22@gmail.com, or 727-410-3781. If calling, please leave your name and number in order to return the call.



Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. Application for Membership

Name: _____
Last Name First Name Spouse/Significant Other

Address: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: (____) _____ **Email:** _____

Occupation(s): Self: _____ Spouse/Significant Other: _____

Type of Membership: _____ Adult Single (\$20) _____ Family (\$30)
 Family means spouse/significant other and/or at least one child under 18 living in your home.

WILL YOU DONATE TIME AND TALENT TO THE CLUB? _____ **Yes** _____ **No**

<u>Reason for Joining</u>	<u>Equipment Owned</u>	<u>Hobby Assets</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Share Mutual Interest	<input type="checkbox"/> Saw	<input type="checkbox"/> Will show gem and mineral collection to club?
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Flat Lap/Cab machine	<input type="checkbox"/> Hobby slides, CD, VHS
<input type="checkbox"/> Field Trips	<input type="checkbox"/> Grinder	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Club House	<input type="checkbox"/> Faceting Machine	
<input type="checkbox"/> Club Administration	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	

What other rock/mineral clubs are you (or have you been) a member? _____

What position(s) have you held in other clubs? _____

Service to the club: *It is understood by joining this club (I/we) are willing to serve.* The following committees have been checked where (I/we) have an interest and believe (I/we) can render assistance.

(Indicate all areas where you have an interest and can assist YOUR club)	
<input type="checkbox"/> A. Serve as a Committee Chairman	<input type="checkbox"/> K. Serve as club officer or board member
<input type="checkbox"/> B. Serve on a Committee.	<input type="checkbox"/> L. /Historian.
<input type="checkbox"/> C. Assist VP with programs for monthly meetings.	<input type="checkbox"/> M. Assist Newsletter Editor (as needed)
<input type="checkbox"/> D. Work with Field Trip Chairman on club trips.	<input type="checkbox"/> N. Assist with maintenance of clubhouse
<input type="checkbox"/> E. Assist at annual show: Ticket Booth	<input type="checkbox"/> O. Assist in contacting membership-phone/email
<input type="checkbox"/> F. Assist at annual show: Information Booth	<input type="checkbox"/> P. Working as a club Instructor (cabbng, silver, faceting, wire wrapping, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/> G. Assist at annual show: Club Booth	<input type="checkbox"/> Q. Hospitality for monthly meetings (set up coffee and supplies)
<input type="checkbox"/> H. Assist at annual show: Silent Auction	<input type="checkbox"/> R. Assist with social media-Facebook, etc
<input type="checkbox"/> I. Assist at annual show: Gem Mining	
<input type="checkbox"/> J. Assist with advertising and promotion of show	

Please list any other skills, knowledge, experience you have that could be helpful to the club. (Ex: accounting, electrical, legal, web design, computer skills, marketing, etc.)

References: Preferably local person who is in the hobby.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Make checks payable to Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society
Mail application to: Sandra Whittington, 6401 99th way N, St. Petersburg, FL 33708

Amt Dues Paid: _____ Check No. _____ Date: _____

 Membership Chairman Treasurer Date Accepted to Club

SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC [SGAMS]
DONATION FORM

Mr/Mrs/Ms

YOUR NAME (PRINTED)

CITY STATE ZIP CODE ADDRESS

EMAIL

() ()

PHONE NUMBER ACCEPTS TEXT? Y N ALTERNATE PHONE #

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Please provide a description of each item you are donating, and a good faith estimate of its value (required). See note below regarding sales.

Table with 3 columns: #, Description, Valued @. It contains 12 rows for item entry, with the first 8 rows having a '\$' in the 'Valued @' column.

Thank you for your generous donation, as noted above, to be sold or auctioned off for fund-raising. We did not provide any goods or services in exchange for this contribution. SGAMS is recognized as a tax-exempt public charity under Section 501(c) (3) of the internal Revenue Code. Contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law [generally speaking when a single item is valued at \$250 or greater, please consult a Tax Advisor for the best advice]

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ ev 12/1/2022

# Annual SGAMS Show!



**54th ANNUAL SHOW**  
**SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY**  
at the **LARGO EVENT CENTER** (formerly Minnreg Hall)  
**MARCH 7, 8, 9, 2025**  
Friday, Saturday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm • Sunday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm  
**Gems, Minerals, Jewelry, Slabs, Cabochons,  
Fossils, Beads, Door Prizes, Exhibits and More.**  
**ADMISSION**  
Donations: \$6.00/Adult 3 day pass  
Children under 12 FREE  
\$1.00 off admission with this card  
(limit one per person)  
**Free Parking**  
**Food Service on Site**





# Links



**Our Website:** [www.sgams.com](http://www.sgams.com)

**Facebook Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063572437643>

**Facebook Group:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/564631203904814>

|                                                    |                                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| American Federation of Mineralogical Societies     | <a href="https://www.amfed.org/">https://www.amfed.org/</a>                                           |
| American Lands Access Association                  | <a href="http://www.amlands.org/">http://www.amlands.org/</a>                                         |
| Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies    | <a href="https://www.southeastfed.org/">https://www.southeastfed.org/</a>                             |
| National Parks Foundation                          | <a href="https://www.nationalparks.org/explore/parks">https://www.nationalparks.org/explore/parks</a> |
| Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society                    | <a href="https://www.canaveral-mgs.com/">https://www.canaveral-mgs.com/</a>                           |
| Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society              | <a href="https://cfmgs.org/">https://cfmgs.org/</a>                                                   |
| Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society | <a href="http://www.bonevalley.net/">http://www.bonevalley.net/</a>                                   |
| Tampa Bay Fossil Club                              | <a href="https://tampabayfossilclub.com/">https://tampabayfossilclub.com/</a>                         |
| Tampa Bay Mineral & Science Club                   | <a href="https://tampabayrockclub.org/">https://tampabayrockclub.org/</a>                             |
| Withlacoochee Rockhounds of Hernando County        | <a href="https://www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com/">https://www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com/</a>       |
| Geology, Rocks, Minerals, Volcano, etc information | <a href="https://geology.com/">https://geology.com/</a>                                               |