

Hello SGAMS Members,

I hope you and yours are well and are keeping warm during this cool weather.

Everything is moving forward for our upcoming Show in March. Please spread the word to all your family, friends, acquaintances, and everyone who may enjoy attending. Be sure to take some of the advertising/discount postcards from the Clubhouse to share and promote our Show, or use the digital version included in this newsletter.

We still need volunteers for prep work for our Show. More details in this Newsletter and by email blasts.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at our February General Meeting.

The Program will be a presentation by Leona Feldhausen, who will be talking to us about Amber.

Please stay safe and be well.

And, keep collecting those pretty rocks!

Sincerely,

Kelly Nolen

Officers, Directors and Appointed Positions for 2021-22

Kelly Nolen, President
 Email: oescharmer@aol.com
 Phone: (440) 953-8711 (summer)
 (727) 584-2775 (winter)
 No texts on either

TBD, Vice President
 Email: Phone:

Patricia Church, Treasurer
 Email: SGAMS2020@gmail.com

Julia Larson, Recording Secretary
 Email: SGAMS2020@gmail.com

Susan Biel, Corresponding Secretary
 Email: peecheene8@gmail.com
 Phone: (315) 380-7037

Chandra McBride, 3 Year Director
 Email: celitehealth@outlook.com
 Phone: (813) 601-6007

Breta McGuire, 2 Year Director
 Email: SGAMS2020@gmail.com

Sherry Staley, 1 Year Director
 Email: slstaley1956@gmail.com
 Phone: (727) 480-6730

Pat Davis, 1 Year Director
 Email: SGAMS2020@gmail.com

OTHER APPOINTED POSITIONS:

William (Bill) Schmidt,
 Building, and Annual Show Chair
 Email: SGAMSGemShow@gmail.com

Donna Sapp, Membership Chair
 Email: DSapp43@yahoo.com
 Phone: (727) 420-0383

Debra Bremer, Webmaster
 Email: bremerslapidary@yahoo.com
 Phone: (727) 534-0590

JoAnn Knoss, Annual & Holiday
 Dinner Chair
 Email: SGAMS2020@gmail.com
 Phone: (727) 238-8345

Susan Biel, Bulletin & Publication
 Chair
 Rock-A-Gram Newsletter
 Email: peecheene8@gmail.com
 Phone: (315) 380-7037

**PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU ADD
 THESE EMAIL ADDRESSES TO
 YOUR CONTACTS SO THAT THEY
 DO NOT GO TO SPAM!**

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Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society
Board Meeting
January 6, 2022



Attending: Kelly Nolen, Pat Church, Pat Davis, Joann Knoss

The meeting was called to order at 7:15. Lacking a quorum no business could be conducted.

Discussion revolved around the following topics:

The building will be tented 1/19.

Most of the tables at the show have been sold.

Show preparations including breaking rocks, assembling grab bags and bags for the flume is scheduled for January 22.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Davis for Julia Larson


PREPARING FOR OUR 2022 ANNUAL SHOW:

PLEASE SIGN UP FOR POSITIONS TO STAFF THE SHOW!

The sign up sheets are in the clubhouse on the round table.

We need full coverage at all times, for all three days, so please fill in wherever you can—Ticket Booth, Information Table, Club Table, Silent Auction, Gem Mining, etc.

We need members to help with Load Up on Thursday March 3rd starting at 10:00 a.m. We need people to lift and carry things from the sheds and the clubhouse and we need trucks and trunks to haul things to the Event Center. At the Event Center we need people to bring stuff in and help set it up. Many hands make for light work and prevents strained backs!

Throughout the three days of the weekend of the Show, even if you only have 2 hours to spare, PLEASE sign up for a time slot! We cannot run a show with unstaffed activities! This is YOUR club, please put your  and soul into it!!!

A Message from our President, Kelly Nolen:

My heartfelt thanks to everyone who has volunteered to help with the preparations for our Show. Volunteers include Irene Muench and Steve R; Pat D; Susan B; Jerri H; Breta M; Pat C; Darell and Geri G; Noel and Charlie W., and Wesley W; Fred P; Nancy H; Brenda S. My sincere apologies to anyone who I may have missed. Your help is greatly appreciated.

I would also like to send out a huge thank you to everyone who has donated items for our Show. Those who have donated include Sandra D, Julia L, Pat C, Pat D, Jerri H, Breta M. Again, my sincere apologies if I've missed anyone. All these donations are very much appreciated as well.

PREPARING FOR OUR 2022 ANNUAL SHOW:

GETTING THE WORD OUT!

Below is an electronic version of the postcard advertising our show in March. Please feel free -and motivated - to print out copies to pass around, email copies to everyone you know who might be interested and keep on doing so as much and often as possible to generate some grand excitement over our 2022 Show! There are also printed cards available at the Clubhouse—please ask about them at the Meetings!

[Hint: you can right click on the image and choose SAVE IMAGE or COPY IMAGE and place it on a blank WORD document; on an iPad you can “touch and hold” to copy it to your photo library and send it to a wireless printer. The image is roughly 7” wide and 5-1/2” long, but you can resize it on a WORD document].

It was also sent as an attachment in the Nov. 8th Meeting Announcement email .



TO GET Y'ALL EXCITED, HERE IS A LIST OF OUR VENDORS

FOR THE 51ST ANNUAL SHOW!

Art of Stone – Richard Alexis
A & J Gems - Judy Lee
Amber America – Krzysztof Tomasik
Ethopian Opal – Amde Zewdalem
Exclusive-lee Design Jewelry – Karen Kulas
Gem Box – Lyuba Ravitskaya
Golden Highway Jewelry – Xin Sun
Gone Fishing Fossils – David Bland
Jessie's Gems – Howard Ball
Iris Jewels – Eirit Zakaim
Kelly Johnson – Kelly Johnson
Ken Blount – Master Cutter – Ken & Gertie Blount
Jewelry by Mirla – Mirla Kremer
Ming J – Le Han
Oriental Secret Garden – Jane Li
Poor Boy's Opals – Jim and Barbara Runkle
S&S Gold and Diamonds – Scott Sills
SibGems – Svetlana Aksenova
Spigg Island – Alex Dragoni
UC Minerals – Richard Green
We Rock Rocks – Melissa & Randy Kluge



A PRESENTATION BY MEMBER, KAREN KULAS on COMPETITIONS:

At the January General Meeting, member Karen Kulas did a presentation on how to enter the Florida State Fair and The Florida Strawberry Festival, both of which are held in the late winter (February-March, generally).

Karen, a former school teacher, and administrator was introduced to the world of rocks and minerals by her husband Mike, and she had us all laughing as she described rock hunting and collecting as being a big part of their relationship from the beginning. Mike was starting cabbing some beautiful stones, so Karen took it on herself to learn how to work with metals to fashion them into jewelry. When you look at these lovely, creative – ribbon winning! – pieces, it is hard to believe she is self-taught!

To encourage others to enter into competitions, she explained where to find the information on each website, how to choose categories for your entry, and how to list them. She did caution that right now there are limited entries in the Lapidary and she was competing against her own entries.

The Florida State Fair has the information on their website under Creative Living, and the category of Arts & Crafts. Karen said that there are many types of arts and crafts to be seen in the Creative Living building, however, very few with handcrafted jewelry, such as she and Mike create together.

When you get to this page on the State Fair website: <https://floridastatefair.com/creative-living/arts-crafts/>

there are downloads available for every category, with very colorful and comprehensive information on the dates and timing, the requirements for entry, judging, rules, and competition, with photos and diagrams throughout.

For The Strawberry Festival which is held in March, the information is a bit harder to find, under INFO, then Contest Rules and Regs, and the area of NEIGHBORHOOD VILLAGE. Jewelry is Department VIII in the category list. Karen stated that this Festival judges on creativity and level of difficulty and gives good feedback on how they judged an entry and the ribbons come with prize money of \$10-20, while the State Fair awards between \$20-60.

And due to the hiccup in this publication, timing was such that I am excited to announce that Karen won SECOND PLACE at the Florida State Fair with this gorgeous piece. CONGRATULATIONS KAREN!



2022 STATE FAIR 2ND PLACE!





GARNETS!!

Pat Davis shared these wonderful photos with us from a trip she once took to Idaho and the Emerald Creek Garnet Area.

For more information about the area, follow this link:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recrea/ipnf/recreation/recrea/?recid=6927>



A rockhound's dream. Spencer opal mine. Spencer, ID



Pat said "I'd go back to this site in a heartbeat. You will **find** stuff!"



SMILE with

A GREAT WAY TO SHOP AND HELP SGAMS AT THE SAME TIME!!

ARE YOU AN AMAZON PRIME MEMBER? DO YOU SHOP OFTEN USING AMAZON.COM?

SGAMS is an approved non-profit organization for Amazon Smile!

That means that when you place an order on Amazon the club gets a small percentage of your purchase price. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice....SGAMS!

Start your shopping at **smile.amazon.com**. Simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile. You can even start shopping in the regular Amazon website, then sign into smile. Amazon.com and it will pick up right where you were!

FAQS:

Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

How do I select SGAMS to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?

On your first visit to AmazonSmile [smile.amazon.com], you need to select:

SUNCOAST GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY in the drop down menu.

— as your chosen non profit to receive donations from your eligible purchases, before you begin shopping.

Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

Can I receive a tax deduction for amounts donated from my purchases on AmazonSmile?

Sorry, donations are made by the AmazonSmile Foundation and are not tax deductible by you.

This is an asteroid crater in Arizona. Look how close it came to hitting the visitor center....



Also at our January General Meeting, member Sue Hazelden gave us a “How To” on Display Cases at our Annual Show.

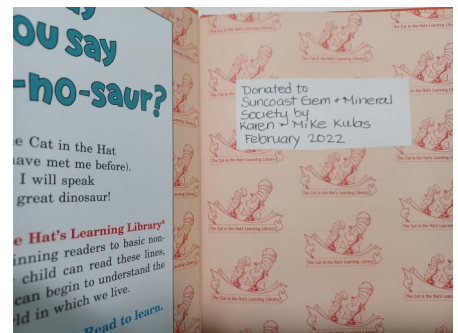
Sue has entered beautiful, well thought out and displayed collections over the years, her Herkimer Diamonds being quite stunning and memorable! She explained about having a good, clean contrasting backdrop to enhance your display.

The judging of these displays is done by the show vendors, giving sound, and objective scrutiny of the exhibits before awarding the first place ribbon and monetary prize.

Many thanks to Sue for her presentation and participation!



A BIG THANK YOU!!
TO KAREN AND MIKE KULAS, FOR PURCHASING AND DONATING THESE FABULOUS BOOKS TO THE SGAMS LIBRARY — ESPECIALLY FOR USE BY OUR BUDDING YOUNG GEOLOGISTS!



And I won't even feel the least bit of anything about a book with a DINOSAUR that shares my name!

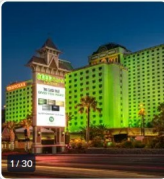
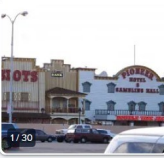



QUARTZITE: How I Do It, by Patricia Church

When I first met Pat Church, at the SGAMS show in March 2020, she told me about the trip she had just taken to Quartzite, which sounded like some good planning and cost savings. She wrote them out for me, and while I can see that prices have gone up (almost doubled) since 2020, there are still savings to be found in her Plan:

1. Fly into Las Vegas NV, and rent a vehicle.
2. Drive to Laughlin, NV (about 1-1/2 -2 hrs. south) and rent a room at a casino hotel – as you can see by this screen shot from TRIVAGO using March 20-25th as an example, nightly rates in the \$20's that are a fraction of those in Lake Havasu which I found to be \$81-150 and up per night for the same sampled timeframe.
3. Across the river from Laughlin, NV is Bullhead, AZ which has numerous, less expensive restaurants.
3. Quartzite is 2 hrs south of Laughlin, and on the way are some interesting sights, including Kingman Turquoise mine, Oatman with its Old West setting and burros roaming the streets, Lake Havasu and the London Bridge, and the oasis-like greenery that pops up along the Colorado River near Parker Dam, along the 2 lane desert road.
4. Returning to Las Vegas to fly home, leave time to see Red Rock Canyon, Valley of Fire State Park and the Hoover Dam!

How payments to us affect ranking (1)

 <p>Hotel Tropicana Laughlin ★★★ Hotel 47.3 miles to Lake Havasu City 7.3 (7007 reviews)</p>	<p>Expedia 25% Less than usual</p> <p>Free cancellation - Pay at the property 5 nights for \$140</p> <p>\$28 View Deal</p> <p>Booking.com \$28 Our lowest price: \$28 Expedia</p>
 <p>Pioneer Hotel & Gambling Hall ★★ Hotel 471 miles to Lake Havasu City 6.9 (3447 reviews)</p>	<p>Hotels.com</p> <p>Free cancellation - Pay at the property 5 nights for \$145</p> <p>\$29 View Deal</p> <p>Hotel Website \$29 Our lowest price: \$29 Hotels.com</p>
 <p>Edgewater Hotel & Casino ★★★ Hotel 47.4 miles to Lake Havasu City 7.3 (7243 reviews)</p>	<p>Expedia</p> <p>Free cancellation 5 nights for \$164</p> <p>\$33 View Deal</p>



SGAMS OFFERINGS FOR MEMBERS —

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.

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

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

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 wish help in this last stage.

SEE PAGE 12 FOR CLASS SCHEDULING AND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE INSTRUCTORS.

A CALL FOR HELP!!

Well, I know that sounds desperate, but I hope it got your attention!

But—I do need help! While I love to create content for this bulletin, it is not—and not meant to be—a One Person Show!

I know that there is a great pool of talent of many kinds in our SGAMS Membership! And while you may not feel that you are a “writer” - you must have a story to tell.

Come on, I know you do, as I have heard all the excited chatter at meetings with everyone sharing experiences, projects and their passions for our mutual interest—Gems and Minerals—all things related.

PLEASE consider telling that story—I would be very happy to “interview” you or take a rough draft and spiff it up for you.

If you don’t have a story, you surely must have photos? Of field trips, finds, and finished products! Your jewelry or your art adorned with rocks and gems. I’ve seen you scroll through your phones to share a pic—please consider emailing it to me for the Rock-A-Gram!

Send your pics and/or a story to tell, a location to share, a project to explain to or even a recipe! Send it to:

Peechikeene8@gmail.com

FOLLOW THESE LINKS TO UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION:

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

American Lands Access Association: www.amlands.org

Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies Website at: <http://www.amfed.org/sfms>

National Park Foundation: www.nationalparks.org/explore-parks

Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society: www.canaveral-mgs.com

Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society: www.cfmgs.org

Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society: www.bonevalley.net

Pinellas Geological Society: www.pgs.rocks

Tampa Bay Fossil Club: www.tampabayfossilclub.com

Tampa Bay Mineral & Science Club: <http://www.tampabayrockclub.org/>

Withlacoochee Rockhounds of Hernando County: www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com

An amazing resource is the website: <https://geology.com> — a wealth of information on geology, rocks, minerals, volcanoes, etc. ; maps, and geology products for sale.

Our Web Site: <http://www.sgams.com>

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



Clubhouse Class Schedules - By Reservation Only

CABBING: Thursdays 12 to 4pm Larry Murray (727) 686-1314 Must receive TEXT request by Tuesday Evening

Saturday Cab Shop hours are suspended until further notice.

FACETING/WIREWRAPPING: Tuesdays, 6 to 9 pm

Dave Watson 727-541-2917 or sgams2020@gmail.com

SILVER SMITHING: Tuesdays, 6 to 9 pm and Saturdays 1 to 5 pm

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

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

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

ROCK-A-GRAM

This is the official newsletter of the SUNCOAST GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC. , 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. 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: \$20.00 single or \$30.00 couple/family; due annually each September. *[the club no longer has a Post Office box, and now receives mail at this location, EXCEPT for dues, which should be mailed to Donna Sapp, Membership Committee Chair) If you have an article or information that you would like to contribute to the Rock-A-Gram, please email it to peechekeene8@gmail.com with "FOR THE ROCK-A-GRAM" in the subject line, by the first Thursday of the month, between September and May. Thank you! ~ Susan Biel, Editor