

# ROCK-A-GRAM



May, 2009



Volume 40, No. 9, Page 1

## SGAMS Annual Dinner

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Doors open: 6:00 p.m.

Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

### LOCATION...Sunshine Center

330 5th Street North

St. Petersburg

Our annual dinner and installation of officers will be held in the Langer Dining Hall at the Sunshine Center, 330 5th Street North, St. Petersburg, on Thursday, May 21.

You need to bring your own plates and silverware as usual and a covered dish-enough to feed 10 people.

Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be at 7:00 p.m.

It is a beautiful location, the room is already set up and there is plenty of parking. The hall, which is on street level, just off the parking lot, is to the left of the main entrance.

**Directions:** From the west, take 4th Avenue North to 5th Street and turn right. From the north, take 4th Street North to 5th Avenue North, turn right, then turn left on 5th Street. **From North on I-275:** I-275 S to St. Petersburg, take exit 23A on the left to merge onto I-375 E. Stay to left, then slight right at 4th Ave N/FL-595/US-92, Turn right at first light -5th Street North, Destination will be on the right.

### **Summer Club House Schedule:**

Closed Monday nights but open Sat afternoons.

No silver class 6/15. No cabbng 6/17, 6/24, 8/19 as instructors are going to William Holland and Wild Acres.

## OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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

*Peter Palmer*, Vice President ..... 727-743-1793  
 1144 -23rd Avenue North  
 St. Petersburg, FL 33704

*Sue Hazelden*, Treasurer ..... 727-321-5732  
 Email: sujagems1@aol.com  
 4823 14th Ave. N.  
 St. Petersburg, FL 33713

*Julia Larson*, Recording Sec. ... 727-522-1254  
 Email: juliamlarsen@earthlink.net  
 5297 Huntington St. NE  
 St. Petersburg, FL 33703

*Walt Upman*, Corr. Sec. .... 727-323-3935  
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*Pat Davis*, 3 yr. Director ..... 727-323-2147  
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*Homer Rankhorn*, 2 yr. Director 727-812-4002  
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 Clearwater, FL 33762

*Evie Loster*, 1 yr. Director ..... 727-821-7230  
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*Sue Black*, Past President ..... 727-345-8994  
 8136 22nd Avenue North  
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*Debra Bremer*, Editor ..... 727-298-0061  
 Email: bremerlapidary@yahoo.com

**ROCK-A-GRAM**

**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:** 7:30 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

The year is over and what a good one it was! This was our first actual year in the clubhouse and functioning after that long period that I will call the "Trials". We have learned a few things along the way and will continue to try to get the most out of it. To that end we have decided to move our year end pot luck dinner to the City of St. Petersburg Sunshine Center. Julia found this nice place to give us plenty of room and begin the rebuilding of this special event back into the grand event it has been in the past.

This year we had classes in gem trees, jewelry making, faceting as well as our normal cabbings sessions. Next year there will be more to offer you and more of you will be teaching these classes. After all it is our saying that once you learn a skill it time to teach someone else the skill.

This year we...

- finished refurbishment on all of the cabbings equipment. Over the summer and next year we will finish the Silver and Faceting rooms.
- participated in digs with other groups. Next year we need to arrange at least one, maybe more, of our own.
- worked on and finished the building needs on the inside of wiring and air conditioning. Next year we will finish the outside with painting, some landscaping, the last door replacement and others.
- had a good Board of Directors and some outstanding individuals. With the swearing in of next years Directors at the dinner we will need to be stronger and more dedicated than ever before.

Next year we need all members participating in making up a full set of committees to advance this society where we want it to go. There is a lot to be and can be done. Will you lend a hand?

*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

## EQUIPMENT CORNER...

As previously mentioned the Six wheeler has been repaired and is running smoothly..

The six inch diamond belts (3000 & 14000) have been order and have be installed on the six inch expandable wheels.

Bill is close to completion of the rebuilding of the large vibrating/vibe machine.

I would like to remind everyone using our equipment, be it, diamond saws or grinding/polishing wheels to do so using a light to medium touch and let the diamonds do the work...HARDER, in this case is NOT BETTER..

The diamond blades, belts and wheels are very expensive, up to \$140.00 each and when used properly they should last years for all to enjoy. So lets all enjoy being Lapidary Artist.

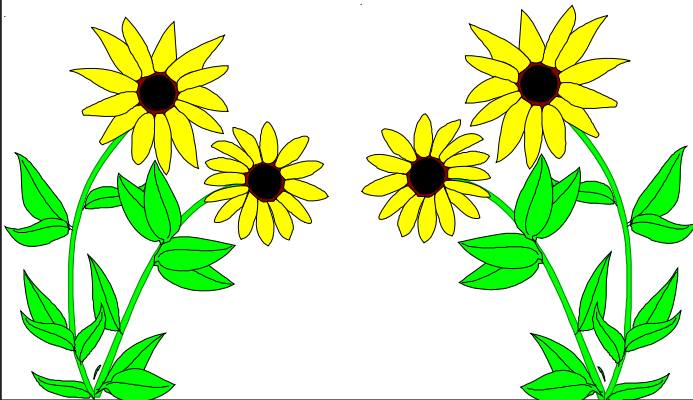
**Keep in mind that all equipment is to be cleaned after you have enjoyed its use.**

*Peter Palmer*

## Thank You

I would like to thank the membership for the lovely flowers and cards you all sent me after my emergency surgery. I am recovering very slowly, and hope to attend the May Banquet.

Thanks again,  
*Sue Hazelden*



## FEDERATION NEWS

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

April, 2009

[www.AMFED.org](http://www.AMFED.org)

## 2009-10 Regional Federation Shows & Conventions

### California Federation

April 17-19, 2009

San Jose, CA

### Rocky Mountain Federation

October 2-3, 2009

Roswell, NM

### Eastern Federation

October 17-18, 2009

Bristol, CT

### South Central Federation

AFMS

October 10-11, 2009

Temple, TX

### Midwest Federation

May 16-17, 2009

Berea, OH

### AFMS Annual Convention

August 5-10, 2010

Riverside, CA

### Northwest Federation

July 30-Aug 2, 2009

Billings, MT

## Federation Websites:

### American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

[www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)

### Lodestar Newsletter

[www.amfed.org/sfms](http://www.amfed.org/sfms)

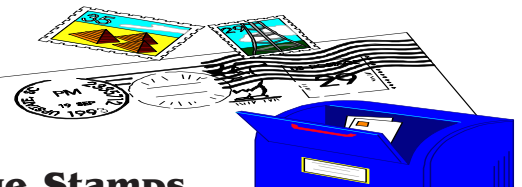
[lodestar\\_newsletter.html](http://lodestar_newsletter.html)

### Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies

[www.amfed.org/sfms](http://www.amfed.org/sfms)

## Postage Stamps Needed

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.



## New Members

**Laura, AJ & Jim Rustin**  
6300 22nd Avenue North  
St. Petersburg, FL 33710  
727-458-2155

**Cherie Reading**  
2931 32nd Avenue North  
St. Petersburg, FL 33713  
727-252-4363  
[cheriereading@yahoo.com](mailto:cheriereading@yahoo.com)

**Melanie Kutzke**  
3229 29th Street North  
St. Pete 33713  
727-480-7848  
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**Tommy & Gerry Thomas**  
5016 40th Avenue North  
St. Petersburg, FL 33709  
727-430-3283  
[tommydt142@aol.com](mailto:tommydt142@aol.com)

**Geoff & Rachel Colber**  
3229 29th Street North  
St Petersburg, FL 33713  
(612) 703-1344

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### Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

Minutes of Board Meeting

April 7, 2009

President **Bill Schmidt** called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were: Treasurer **Barbara (Sue) Hazelden**, Vice President **Peter Palmer**, Corresponding Secretary **Walt Upman**, Recording Secretary **Julia Larson**, Past President **Sue Black**, and directors **Pat Davis**, **Homer Rankhorn** and **Dave Watson**. Also present was **Martha Rankhorn**.

**Sue Hazelden** gave the treasurer's report, which was discussed by the board, who voted unanimously to accept it. Next year's budget was then presented. Following discussion, this was also approved by unanimous vote. Changing some of the money market funds to a Certificate of Deposit was discussed, and the board agreed to do this at 3<sup>rd</sup> Federal Bank in St. Petersburg.

**Bill Schmidt** presented old business, which included the silver room, workshop, recycling, outside and inside contacts. He mentioned the field trip to Rucks mine, of interest to several members. The silver room now has chairs, thanks to a donation from a member's daughter, who also donated some office supplies. There is an overhead projector which can be

used by the club or sold at auction. Some electrical concerns at the clubhouse were discussed, and the board approved contacting electricians for bids. **Dave Watson** is going to make new shop trays to transport rocks, and the board approved this expense, which should be under \$100.

**Sue Hazelden** mentioned we need an official copy of the bylaws on file at the clubhouse, and also that we need to vote to accept/amend the previous month's minutes at the beginning of each meeting.

The need for a larger meeting space was discussed. **Sue Hazelden and Pat Davis** will investigate other venues and report at the general meeting. The annual banquet was mentioned in connection with this, including the need for a banquet chair ASAP.

Election of new officers will be held at the April 16 meeting. **Sue Black** will handle the installation.

**Bill Schmidt** currently has all the membership information, since the membership chair is out of town for an extended period. Two new member

families were voted in, **John DiPaola** and his daughter **Nina**; and **Geoff and Rachel Colbert**.

Since we now have a few junior members, the need for junior programs was discussed. These included possible field trips over the summer months.

**Sue Black** said several dealers had been adamant about keeping the show to three days. Two days would not be worth their time and effort. Other show concerns were discussed, including whether the display cabinets need to be refurbished; and whether the demonstrators were spending enough time talking about the club and our amenities as they were demonstrating.

The board agreed to keep the current clubhouse hours over the summer months. Ongoing classes were also discussed, and will be mentioned at the general meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Submitted by:  
**Julia Larson**, Recording Secretary

**Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.**  
Minutes of General Meeting  
April 16, 2009

President **Bill Schmidt** called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**Sue Hazelden** is in the Northside hospital with ruptured appendix. **Julia Larson** is in Largo Medical Center having/recovering from back surgery. Bill asked if members remembered to sign in and asked all to sign a card for Sue Hazelden.

**Treasurers Report:**

March expenditures, receivables and disbursements were discussed. The large St. Petersburg Times bill is still owed. Went over proposed budget for next year. Dues line item increased, show dealers, shop income, are up, auction same. For disbursements, liability insurance, property taxes, web site are additional expenses, shop expense up. Some general figures were given on what we made at our show this year, as Treasurer was out sick.

**Old Business:**

Next two weeks there will be no metal class on Monday nights, but clubhouse will be open. Faceting class on Saturday mornings. Cabbng anytime clubhouse is open: Monday. 5-9 p.m., Wed. 6-9 p.m., and Sat. 9-12 noon. Clubhouse will close down at end of May, may still have some workshop hours. Sign-up sheets for classes are available.

Thanks again to all who worked on clean-up day and hauling trash away.

Ruck's Pit open dig is this weekend, April 16-19th. **Laura, Pat and Bucky** will be going, see them for a caravan. **Peter Palmer** called in and said there were about 20 people there and they found ½ pail of clam shells in about 4 hours.

**Bill Schmidt** is installing wires and switches to upgrade the breezeway. Our 8" slab saw is up and running.

In April and March, a slate of candidates for board of directors was proposed. **Pat Davis** moved that we accept the slate as stated. A vote of 100% approved and 0% against was taken. Officers will be seated as voted.

On May 21st, the banquet and installation of officers will be held. It is a pot luck dinner, buffet style. Bring your own place setting (i.e., silverware, plate, cup, etc.) and a dish or two to share. We still need a place to hold it. The theme colors will be Red, White and Blue for Memorial Day. Several members offered to check on venues for the banquet.

Guest **Laura Rustin**. won the first raffle. Several other members won great items too. Please remember, if you won a prize or prizes, bring items for next month's meeting/raffle.

The meeting ended about 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by:

**Laura Parrish**, Acting Secretary

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

Board Meeting  
May 5, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Present: **Bill Schmidt**, president; **Peter Palmer**, vice president; board members: **Sue Black**, **Pat Davis**, **Dave Watson**; and **Julia Larson**, Recording Secretary. Club member: **Walt Larson** and prospective members: **Mr. and Mrs. Thomas** were also present, as was incoming board member **Donna Remsnyder**. Absent were: **Barbara (Sue) Hazelden**, treasurer, and board members: **Homer Rankhorn** and **Walt Upman**.

The treasurer was recently hospitalized and was unable to produce the April report at this time. **Bill Schmidt** gave an informal report of expenditures. The April report will be prepared as soon as possible.

**Regarding April board meeting:**

Many of the board members did not receive the email attachment. The recording secretary will send the April minutes along with the current minutes. **Laura Parrish** took the minutes at the general meeting. She emailed them to **Bill Schmidt**, who will email to the entire board as well as to the newsletter editor.

**Peter Palmer** reported on the state of the big tumbler; he will fix as soon as he returns on a Saturday. The Star Diamond machine was reported to be working intermittently at times, but Peter checked it out and said he did not find any problem.

**Bill Schmidt** reported on the clubhouse maintenance and said **Charles Woolheater** had made a number of repairs. Electrical work estimates were discussed. The estimates being nearly identical, the board voted to use the contractor (KC Electric) who did the work when Mr. Cook did the clubhouse renovation. Bill said, he should be able to start shortly.

**Membership:**

Chair **Carmen Lemke** will be out of town until October. She gave **Bill Schmidt** all the membership papers and roster, which he is keeping up, since there are currently no other members appointed to the membership committee. The following new applicants were discussed and voted in unanimously: **Melanie Kutzke**, **Laura Rustin**, **Cherie**

**Reading, and Tommy and Gerry Thomas.**

There followed considerable discussion on the upcoming end-of-year dinner. We have only a short time to settle the arrangements. The board had previously discussed holding the dinner at a location other than the clubhouse, since the last two dinners were well attended and we have a number of new members as well. Several board members attempted to contact various locations during the meeting, but none were successful. The issue was left unresolved. **Sue Black** will swear in the new board members.

**Pat Davis**, education chair, led a discussion on summer hours. She had a calendar for each month, which she gave to **Bill Schmidt** to be posted at the clubhouse. As of this writing, the cabbng room will not be open on Monday nights after the end of May. **Open times and shop managers for the summer are: Pat Davis (Wed. evenings, except for the weeks she is at the federation workshops); Peter Palmer (Sat. mornings); Bill Schmidt (Sat. afternoons). Donna Remsnyder will continue the Monday evening silver classes. Other classes will be scheduled as needed.**

**Show:**

**Sue Black** made a motion that we offer dealers a discount if they pay in full by August 1. After discussion, the motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

**Donna Remsnyder** has several file cabinets she is willing to donate to replace those we have. Her offer was accepted.

Additional discussion on the May 21 dinner ensued. Several board members volunteered to call some locations tomorrow. They will report their findings to the board via email by 7 p.m. on that day.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 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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## Other State Show Schedules During Summer

### Connecticut

#### **June 13: Kent, CT.**

Connecticut Antique Machinery Association and Danbury Mineralogical Society. 7th Annual Rocks Swap & Sale. Connecticut Antique Machinery Assoc. museum grounds, Rte. 7.

#### **August 7th -9th: West Springfield, Mass**

East Coast Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show Martin Zinn Expositions; Better Living Center, Eastern States Exposition, 1305 Memorial Dr., West Springfield, Massachusetts, Hours: 7th & 8th-10 a.m. - 7 p.m. 9th - 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

#### **October 17-18: EFMLS Convention, Bristol, CT**

**November 7th and 8th: Stamford Mineralogical Society Show and Sale, Eastern Greenwich Civic Center.**

### California

#### **August 1-2: San Francisco**

SFGMS 55th Annual Show and Sale, Gold Gate Park, Hall of Flowers.

Have a safe and wonderful summer.

### North Carolina

#### **June 19-21, Asheville, NC**

Asheville Gem Fest 2009 (free show, silent auction, fieldtrip, children's activities, etc.) Two free lectures on Saturday: **Radioactive Minerals** and **Fluorite**. Colburn Earth Science Museum (which will be open free all weekend), 2 South Park Square at Augusta Gem & Mineral Society, Inc Pack Place, Asheville, NC. Hours: 19th & 20th 10:00am to 6:00pm; 21st 11:00am to 5:00pm. Contact 828-254-7162

#### **AFMS (American Federation of Mineralogical**

**Societies) web site: [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org).** After accessing this site, you can click on EFMLS (Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies) or SFMS (South-eastern Mineralogical Societies) for info on shows, workshops, current & past newsletters, and other info relating to our hobby. We are affiliated with the AFMS, SFMS and EFMLS.

### Others:

#### **May 30-31: Columbus, Ohio**

Columbus Rock and Mineral Society Annual Show, Veterans Memorial 300 W Broad Street, Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sunday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

#### **June 26-28: Bloomington, IN**

44th Annual Show and Swap, Lawrence County Rock Club, Monroe County 4-H Fairgrounds, Airport Road and Hwy 45, Friday, 10 a.m. - 6:30 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. - 6:30 p.m., Sunday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. ([www.lawrencecountyrocksclub.org](http://www.lawrencecountyrocksclub.org))

# **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 September - May**

#### **Board Meeting:**

(September - May)

First Tuesday: 7:30 p.m.

#### **Clubhouse Open:**

Mondays, 5 - 9 p.m.

Wednesdays, 6 - 9 p.m.

#### **Clubhouse Maintenance:**

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

#### **Faceting, Silversmithing**

**Wire Wrapping Classes**

By appointment