

ROCK-A-GRAM



June-September, 2015



Volume 47, No. 1, Page 1

General Meeting

Thursday, September 17, 2015

7:00 p.m.

Location:

Clubhouse, 4619 69th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL



What Did You Do Over The Summer?

We would love to hear about your summer adventures. Bring in items you collected or made over the summer and share with your fellow rockhounds.

Tell us about any new mines you found, and how they were.

It's September and DUES ARE DUE once again. Please give them to the membership chairperson, or *Jerri Heer*, Treasurer at our General Meeting.

DUES ARE DUE!

\$15.00 Individuals—\$20 per family

If your last name starts with A-M, please bring goodies to our meeting to share.

Board Members

Pat Davis, President 727-323-2147
Email: 73shasta@gmail.com

Eric Odegaard, Vice President 727-333-5668
Email: erics.odegaard@gmail.com

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

Gerri Groves, Recording Secretary 727-656-0322
Email: gerrigroves@yahoo.com

Nikki Heim, Corresponding Secretary 402-880-4026
Email: nikkis.expressions@yahoo.com

Pattie Reed, Director 262-748-8650
Email: preed114@yahoo.com

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

Joe Cooper, Director 727-202-8095
Email: je.cooper@outlook.com

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

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

Be Happy, Feel Good, Eschew the Ersatz

Welcome back. Our first meeting of the year is Thursday, September 17, 2015. I am so looking forward to seeing everyone and hearing about what you have been doing since we last met in the spring - travels, projects, techniques for staying cool in this oven of a summer we've had.

Normally this is where I would be saying, "Hope you had a great summer," but this past one doesn't fall into the lots-of-happy-memories category. This one will be remembered for the losses we have suffered. First it was Dave Watson's wife, Betty. Dave Schwebel's untimely passing in August left us all in shock. Sylvia Grant, Past President, passed away in September. Former member, Homer Rankhorn is no longer with us. Bill Schmidt and Pattie Reed have lost family members as well.

As we gather again in the fall to start a new season let's remember the good times we shared with those we've lost. Let's work on projects that enrich our club and make us smile.

Let's make happy memories to recall next year. Actually, I'm picturing a bunch of us sitting around on our new patio swapping stories that make us laugh, enjoying the friendships we have in this club and feeling good about what we have accomplished.

Pat Davis, President

Remembrances

Remembering Dave Schwebel, Sylvia Grant, Betty Watson, and Homer Rankhorn



I considered copying comments about *Dave Schwebel* from the funeral home condolence page and then I realized that would have taken pages. Dave had a lot of friends that cared about him. He made friends easily. He cared about his friends and he showed it. The list of words used to describe him is impressive: happy, cheerful, energetic, dedicated, great leader, loving, giving, caring, easygoing, kind, enthusiastic, warm, wonderful friend, full of life, heart of gold, generous, willing to help. But probably the best is “extraordinary.” Dave stood out because he exemplified all these traits to such an extraordinary degree.

Everyone who knew him loved him. That is why losing him has left such a big, overwhelming empty space in our lives. Our relationships to him define the nature of that empty space for each of us. That’s the personal level.

Dave’s relationship to our club is every bit as complex. He wore many hats. He was the Chairman of the Equipment Committee and kept all our machines working. He was the Dealer Chair for the show. He kept the dealers happy and coming back. He managed the club booth at the show, getting it set up and manning it for all three days. He organized the display cases at the show. He opened the lapidary shop on Tuesday nights and taught cabbing. He served on the Board of Directors for many years and would have been President if not for scheduling conflicts with work. Whenever there was a project where he could help Dave was there. Truly Extraordinary!



This is the *Sylvia Grant* I knew. She had the prettiest blue hair. Sylvia served as president of SGAMS during some of those trying years when the club was in transition from the old club house to our current location.

“Sylvia passed away on September 6, 2015 after a 6 year battle with lung cancer. Rest in peace, I will love you and miss you forever”. —posted on Facebook by her daughter.

We would also like to remember former Board of Directors member, Homer Rankhorn and Betty Watson, wife of Dave Watson.

Please take a moment and say a prayer in remembrance of these members.

Submitted by:

Pat Davis, President

Upcoming Show:

September 25 -27: Florida Faceters Frolic 2015

The Golden Nugget, September 2015, Vol. 15, Issue 9
www.fgcgms.com

The Florida Faceters Frolic is co-sponsored by the United States Faceters Guild & the Tomoka Faceters Guild in conjunction with the 27th Annual Jacksonville Gem & Mineral Society Show; at the Morocco Temple, 3800 Saint John's Bluff Road, Jacksonville, 32224.

Hours: Friday 1 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Speakers, gem cad lessons, faceting lessons, faceting machine dealers, rough & contests. Special surprise guests from "Prospectors".

Welcome New Members:

Cynthia & Steven Van Vliet



Welcome Back Rockhounds!
Looking forward to another fun year
of working with rocks and minerals.

See you at the Clubhouse!

FEDERATION NEWS

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
www.AMFED.org,
AFMS Newsletter, August, 2015

2015 Regional Federation Shows and Conventions

California Federation
September 12-15, 2015
Lodi, CA

**Rocky Mountain
Federation**
TBA

Eastern Federation
October 21-23, 2016
Rochester, NY

**South Central
Federation**
October 23-25, 2015
Austin, TX

Midwest Federation
August 19-21, 2016
South Bend, IN

Northwest Federation
July 27-Aug 1, 2016
Albany, OR

**Southeast
Federation**
November 6-8, 2015
Melbourne, FL

Some links to help you keep track of upcoming shows:

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

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

Other Web Sites:

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>
Check this site out for Wildacres & William Holland
information.u

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

Winnipeg Rock and Mineral Club: www.wrnc.ca
Rock Vein Newsletter

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

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

Bob's Rock Shop, <http://www.rockhounds.com>.

If you find any other interesting websites, please let me know and I will publish in newsletter.



Glass Top Display Cases For Sale:

The following sizes are available for purchase:

2-1/2" x 3-1/2" = \$3.00

3-1/2" x 4-1/2" = \$4.00

5-1/4" x 6-1/4" = \$5.00

8" x 12" = \$6.00

12" x 16" = \$9.00

If interested in purchasing any of these Glass Top Display Cases, contact: **Jack Hauser** at **727-520-5720**.

Canaveral Moonstone September 2015 Vol. M No. 9

Monthly Bench Tips

By Brad Smith

SMOOTHING EARWIRES Any time you make your own ear wires, the hardest part for me is to sand and polish the end that's inserted into the ear. Any sharp edge there is no fun. I've tried using sanding sticks, cup burs, and silicone polishing wheels. I've tried buffing on a Zam wheel, and I've tried spinning the wire in the Freedom to polish the tip. While all of these techniques do the job, none are very easy, and none are as fast as I'd like.

Then it occurred to me - I could melt the wire smooth. One quick touch in the flame of the propane/oxygen Little Torch does the trick - not enough to form a bead on the wire but just enough to round off the tip. I find it's worth practicing the maneuver a couple times on some scrap wire before trying it on completed earrings.

BALL BURS I use ball burs quite a bit for carving and for cleaning up bits of solder that need to be removed. The ball shape seems to be more controllable than other cutting burs. They're less apt to grab and walk over your piece.



As to sizes I've found that 8 mm is a very useful size for carving while a half mm or smaller at high speed works great for signing your name on the back of your work.

Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
May 7, 2015

The meeting was called to order by President, Julia Larson at 7:05 p.m.

The following directors were present: Joe Cooper, Jerri Heer, Dave Watson, Eric Odegaard, Gerri Groves, Holly Dodson, and Donna Sapp.

Secretary Report: A motion by Eric Odegaard to accept as printed.

Treasurer Report: Jerri Heer presented the Treasurer's Report. A motion by Joe Cooper to accept the report, and file it for audit. Motion carried.

A/C for cabbing room, Eric Odegaard made a motion to replace with a smaller window unit for this year, instead of going with a central A/C unit. Motion carried.

Yard Work: Removal of 2 pine trees, and the grinding of the stumps \$1,400.00.

Pavers for the deck area may have to make adjustment in the cost, as the original contract has elapsed. Dumpster for cleanup, \$140.00 for 2days from Affordable, or \$380.00 from Budget Dumpster. Dave Watson will take care of this. Will have a work day on Sunday morning starting between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m.

Shop Hours: Cabbing Room, Wednesdays, 12 to 4 p.m., Jerri Heer. Silver Smithing, Tuesdays 6 to 9 p.m., and Saturdays, 1-5 p.m.

Annual meeting at Olive Garden, Holly Dodson needs a head count to get a private room. Donna Sapp will sent an e-mail requesting everyone who has not responded to e-mail and RSVP to Holly Dodson ASAP.

New Members: Donna Sapp has recommended the following to be accepted as new members. *Cynthia & Steven Van Vliet*. They have been approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 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.



Clubhouse Class Schedules

CABBING: Tuesdays, 6 - 9 p.m.

Darell Groves (727) 656-0323 or darell.groves@gmail.com

Wednesdays, 12-4 p.m.

Pat Davis (727) 323-2147 or wayouttamygourd@gmail.com

Jerri Heer (419) 344-9999 or jheerx6@aol.com

FACETING/WIREWRAPPING: Tuesdays, 6-9 p.m.

Dave Watson (727) 541-2917 or bwatson1@tampabay.rr.com

Contact Instructors, if interested in following classes:

ENAMELING: *Pat Davis* (727) 323-2147, wayouttamygourd@gmail.com or
Sandy Schwebel, dschwebel@tampabay.rr.com

FUSED GLASS: *Julia Larson* (727) 410-3781, glassgal0947@gmail.com

SILVER SMITHING: *Joe Cooper* (727) 202-8095, je.cooper@outlook.com
Tuesdays, 6-9 p.m., Saturdays, 1-5 p.m. (by appointment)

GEM TREES: *Jerri Heer* (419) 344-9999, jheerx6@aol.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 minimum number of students needed to start a class.

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.

General Meeting:

(September - May)

Third Thursday: 7:00 p.m.

Clubhouse Open:

Tuesdays, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Wednesdays 12:00- 4:00 p.m.