ACCESS TO PUBLIC LANDS

by John Wright, AFMS Conservation & Legislation Chair

My wife and I recently attended a meeting conducted by the U.S. Forestry Service regarding road closures in a local National Forest area. We actually found out about the meeting from other AFMS members in California and Idaho. The meeting turned out to be either the worst organized unprofessional event I have ever attended (I have actually seen Cub Scouts do better), or the meeting was a very carefully orchestrated “sham”. Since the early 1900’s the Forestry Service has spent “billions” of our tax dollars building roads in National Forest areas to act as “firebreaks” and to make areas more accessible to emergency equipment. With forest fires establishing new records in occurrence and destruction of public and private property all around the country, the sudden decision to close all these roads just doesn’t make sense. Something is going on that smells a little bit “environmentally” fishy.

According to ALAA (American Lands Access Association) many of the agencies and governing bodies at local, state, and federal levels do not always keep the public informed about plans that could ultimately restrict access to public lands. When they do let you know, normally through public hearings, the plans are usually complete and the “mind set” is to prevail. Often changes are made without any prior notification or public input and it’s not surprising that this is done on purpose to prevent public interference.

I have just briefly touched on some of the problems that are confronting us, but I think it is enough to give you an idea of what needs to be done. We need to collectively (club petitions) and individually write our state and federal representatives. Writing these letters actually requires very little effort and could quite easily be turned into an interesting and enlightening club project. I might add at this point that “emails” and particularly “email petitions” have little or no effect.

Remember, the majority of representatives we send to our state and nation’s capitol really like their job and want to keep it. They also know that keeping their job often depends on a very narrow margin of votes, so they are very keen on keeping their constituents happy. If we fail in letting them know what is bothering us or what we want done about the varying legislation that affect our access to public lands, we shoot ourselves in the foot. Why, because there are hundreds of organized groups with very dedicated members that are earnestly working to restrict the use of public lands and you can bet they make their desires known.

Many of you have heard at club meetings or learned through the news media about all the new federal and state lands that have recently been added to “preserves” where rock hunting is prohibited or severely restricted and how many other areas of public lands have in other ways also had access to them limited and/or restricted. Proposals are constantly being considered to substantially increase these land preserves and to add more restrictions for access to almost all public lands. The total acresages being placed off limits to us is in the millions and primarily it is our own fault because with the exception of a very few, we have done nothing to prevent it from happening.

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) requires permits in many areas, plan to increase the areas where permits are required, and are considering raising the fees for permits. Their counterparts in some states have followed suit for state owned lands or are currently working on legislative initiative and agendas along similar lines. Environmentalists and paleontologists, plus a host of other groups, are diligently working to limit access to public lands and restrict the removal of minerals, fossils, and almost everything else imaginable. Quite a number of bills are pending in Washington and many state capitols right now that will further restrict our right to use public lands, and they are virtually unopposed.

I know that many of the areas involved hold little interest to most of you. Well, you better wake up and get interested, because each time our adversaries win, they are encouraged to try for even more and one day they may be plotting to close off all around the country, the sudden decision to close all these roads just doesn’t make sense. Something is going on that smells a little bit “environmentally” fishy.
Greetings to you all,

As this is my first message as your president I'd like to share with you some important things for the coming year. My first concern is communication between the regional federations and the AFMS. I want you all to know that I am just a "click" away.

I'd like to see everyone attend a regional show outside of their own. Let's get to know each other. As you read this, I'll be at the Southeast Federation's convention and show in Biloxi, Mississippi. I had hoped to attend each of the regional federation shows this year, but the Midwest and Northwest federation conventions are on the same weekend. A dilemma. Each regional President will receive shortly a letter regarding your current and future show dates from the new Show Consultant, Bob Livingston. Please work with him so that this dilemma can be avoided in the future. If dates are known ahead of time, there might be some wiggle room to change them.

During my budget proposal at Roswell, Ed Romack, AFMS Past President asked to speak about our continuing "deficit budget." His suggestion of raising the AFMS dues to cover this deficit budget that has been going on for years was hotly debated. At one point it was moved to increase the dues. And it might have passed then and there but it was out of order. So we are asking all the Federations to strongly approve of increasing the AFMS dues by 25 cents. It will be brought up under New Business at Houston, TX in September, 2008. A dues increase has not been made since 1993 when it was raised from $.25 to $.50 per person. Because of a deficit budget for many years, many of the officers and chairs have not submitted their expenses, or only submitted partial expenses. That is asking a big sacrifice to those who serve. In addition, we all know that expenses for things like postage, printing and travel are increasing rapidly so our budget, like yours, is becoming even more strained.

Now, on a lighter note I have some important news:

I have appointed Bob Jones, Senior Editor of Rock and Gem magazine and long time friend to the post of International Relations and have added "Goodwill Ambassador" to the title. If you have had a chance to read his article in the November issue of Rock and Gem magazine, pages 88 & 89 you'll see that Bob is already hard at work.

Another appointment is Fran Sick, recently President of Eastern Federation, who will be taking over the Public Relations committee. Watch for her articles.

Two new Ad Hoc Committees were approved at my request, at Roswell. The first is Inter-Federation Field Trip Coordinator. Dick Pankey, recently President of California Federation was appointed to this chair. Dick successfully ran the Tri-Federation Field Trip to Texas Springs, NV in 2002. Dick will be recreating that event again over Memorial Day weekend, 2008. Watch for his articles.

The second Ad Hoc Committee is a Study of AFMS contests and competition. Why has there been a huge decline in interest? Have some of these contests become obsolete? Can we update them and bring interest back? This will be chaired by Ron Carman, AFMS Past President. Ron is currently getting his committee together. He will be interviewing both present and past chairs of the various committees. If you have some thoughts on any of these committees, please contact Ron, or a member of his committee. WE NEED INPUT!

Money has been allotted in the 2008 budget to the Program Competition Chair, Marge Collins to save our early slide programs before they are lost. This will be done digitally. Marge is looking into ways to do this and the costs involved. If you have had success in doing this, please contact Marge.

Money has been allotted in the 2008 budget to the Junior Activities Program, Chair, Jim Brace-Thompson for six new badges. You can read about these new badges in the October AFMS Newsletter. Please get your juniors involved. If your club doesn't have juniors, you might consider adopting a Scout group into your local club and assisting them in these "rockhound badges," as well as their own badges.

Now comes my most important goal for 2008. ALL EDITORS PLEASE COPY. I have asked Wendell Mohr, Commemorative Stamp Chair to change his proposal of U.S. Gemstone Stamps, to U.S. GEMSTONE BIRTHSTONE STAMPS. That would be a collection of twelve stamps. Wendell and Bob Jones are teaming up to put this information before the public. You can help. If your club is having a show, please copy the flyers, you can get them from the AFMS website: amfed.org and distribute them at your show. If your show includes "Kids Day" please be sure and give the teacher/student work sheets to them as well as the flyer, and ask for their help. You, personally, can take the flyers and teacher/student worksheets to a school in your area and get them involved. We've had minerals stamps and they were successful. Let's go for gemstone/birthstone stamps. If you have some suggestions on how to get this before the public and generate interest, please contact either Wendell

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My Thoughts This Month

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Mahr or me. Teachers like to get students involved in government, this is a chance for students to help with the process of selecting a set of stamps. Just think of the money these stamps could generate for the Post Office, maybe they could improve their service…..but again, that’s a whole different story.

Good news for all: Our new President-Elect, Joy Bourne will continue this coming year as Endowment Fund Chair, along with her new duties as President-Elect. So when she contacts YOU, asking for a donation for the Endowment Fund, give generously. The Endowment Fund works for YOU. A number of our important programs wouldn’t be funded if it wasn’t for the Endowment Fund.

There are other exciting things coming in 2008. Cathy Gaber, Chair of AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year will be issuing AFMS Certificates to those rockhounds chosen after November 1, 2007. These certificates will be given out at each of the regional convention/show during 2008. Watch for Cathy’s articles regarding this.

Let me introduce you to John Wright, the new Conservation and Legislation chair. He will be following a long list of dedicated people who have worked tirelessly to keep our organization open. John is from the Southeast Federation and is a retired geologist. His first article is in this issue, please read it carefully.

We have several other new chairs, but I’ll mention them in the next issue. Till then, I leave you with this information, please use both email addresses noted, if I don’t answer you within a day via email, then I’m probably “on the road.” If it’s important, please contact Carolyn and Steve Weinberger, they will know where we are. If you have SURFACE MAIL you want to send me, please send it to P.O. Box 23, Tendoy, ID 83468-0023. This is because the Post Office in La Mesa/San Diego area can’t keep things straight and things are sent back or lost. The Tendoy postmaster will see that we get the mail, wherever we are.

Till next month,
Your president,
Shirley

A Word or Two From Your President-Elect

by Joy Bourne, AFMS President-elect

Hello Everybody,

Thank you so much for asking me to join the ranks of AFMS leadership in the capacity of President-Elect. Please accept my apologies for our absence at the Roswell convention installation of officers due to my husband’s hospitalization just prior to the meeting, but I want to reassure you that I do pledge to do all the things my dear friend and stand-in, Fred Schaefermeyer, promised you that I would do during my term of office! I am deeply honored and pledge to serve AFMS and its programs to the very best of my ability.

In her first message, President Shirley has set up a number of goals for us to accomplish during the coming year, and I plan to be involved and actively working with the committees charged with the planning and execution of actions to the benefit of the organization.

I, too, am a firm believer in communication as the key to our success, and sincerely invite comments and suggestions from each of you as we work together to improve programs to better serve all seven regional federations in our organization. Please feel free to contact me by email at csprings@epix.net, or by phone at (570)265-6454 if you have concerns or suggestions, and I will see that your message gets passed on and acted upon by the appropriate persons and/or committees.

The challenges are before us. We have fine leadership in each of the committees. Now all we need is cooperation and participation of the membership at large. That’s YOU. Working together, we can meet and surpass the goals set for us.

Joy

Thanksgiving

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Be Safe – Be Well

by Don Moore, AFMS Safety Chair

Note: This article highlights problems but does not have solutions to offer.

Catch It? Should you?

In this article we will discuss issues that are influenced by habit, reflex action or human nature. All of these are things which we may, or may not, be able to control.

To illustrate the point let me tell you about my friend Bernard and what he did. We were riding in my jeep down a dirt road in a game preserve when a wild turkey jumped up in the ditch and began running down the edge of the road between the road and a fence. We were moving very slowly and before I could stop him, Bernard bailed out and started chasing the big gobbler. He cornered the turkey in an offset in the fence and piled right into him thinking that he could catch him and ignoring the beating wings and spurs on the turkey’s feet. I was yelling and trying to stop the jeep and could not stop the attack which now was a big rolling ball of turkey feathers and Bernard’s hair and blood. The fray ended very suddenly with the turkey’s feet. I was yelling and trying to stop the jeep and could not stop the attack which now was a big rolling ball of turkey feathers and Bernard’s hair and blood. The fray ended very suddenly with the turkey’s feet. I was yelling and trying to stop the jeep and could not stop the attack which now was a big rolling ball of turkey feathers and Bernard’s hair and blood. The fray ended very suddenly with the turkey’s feet. I was yelling and trying to stop the jeep and could not stop the attack which now was a big rolling ball of turkey feathers and Bernard’s hair and blood. The fray ended very suddenly with the turkey’s feet. I was yelling and trying to stop the jeep and could not stop the attack which now was a big rolling ball of turkey feathers and Bernard’s hair and blood. The fray ended very suddenly with the turkey’s feet. I was yelling and trying to stop the jeep and could not stop the attack which now was a big rolling ball of turkey feathers and Bernard’s hair and blood. The fray ended very suddenly with the turkey’s feet. I was yelling and trying to stop the jeep and could not stop the attack which now was a big rolling ball of turkey feathers and Bernard’s hair and blood. The fray ended very suddenly with the turkey’s feet. I was yelling and trying to stop the jeep and could not stop the attack which now was a big rolling ball of turkey feathers and Bernard’s hair and blood. The fray ended very suddenly with the turkey’s feet. I was yelling and trying to stop the jeep and could not stop the attack which now was a big rolling ball of turkey feathers and Bernard’s hair and blood. The fray ended very suddenly with the turkey’s feet. I was yelling and trying to stop the jeep and could not stop the attack which now was a big rolling ball of turkey feathers and Bernard’s hair and blood. The fray ended very suddenly with the turkey’s feet. I was yelling and trying to stop the jeep and could not stop the attack which now was a big rolling ball of turkey feathers and Bernard’s hair and blood. The fray ended very suddenly with the turkey’s feet. I was yelling and trying to stop the jeep and could not stop the attack which now was a big rolling ball of turkey feathers and Bernard’s hair and blood. The fray ended very suddenly with the turkey’s feet. I was yelling and trying to stop the jeep and could not stop the attack which now was a big rolling ball of turkey feathers and Bernard’s hair and blood. The fray ended very suddenly with the turkey’s feet. I was yelling and trying to stop the jeep and could not stop the attack which now was a big rolling ball of turkey feathers and Bernard’s hair and blood. The fray ended very suddenly with the turkey’s feet. I was yelling and trying to stop the jeep and could not stop the attack which now was a big rolling ball of turkey feathers and Bernard’s hair and blood. The fray ended very suddenly with the turkey’s feet. I was yelling and trying to stop the jeep and could not stop the attack which now was a big rolling ball of turkey feathers and Bernard’s hair and blood. The fray ended very suddenly with the turkey’s feet. I was yelling and trying to stop the jeep and could not stop the attack which now was a big rolling ball of turkey feathers and Bernard’s hair and blood. The fray ended very suddenly with the turkey’s feet. I was yelling and trying to stop the jeep and could not stop the attack which now was a big rolling ball of turkey feathers and Bernard’s hair and blood. The fray ended very suddenly with the turkey’s feet. I was yelling and trying to stop the jeep and could not stop the attack which now was a big rolling ball of turkey feathers and Bernard’s hair and blood. The fray ended very suddenly with the turkey’s feet.

What is the answer? How can we avoid needless injuries? I really do not know. I will not believe that I am the only klutz that does stupid things. I really think that some of you do similarly without even thinking and may suffer minor injuries. Well, I certainly hope your injuries are minor. My best thought is that we all need to plan our work and organize our work place. We need to see problems before they arise and take measures to prevent accidents.

I hope that some of you can offer suggestions or comments about what you do to preserve your health and safety so we can all benefit from your experience and not have to “re-invent the wheel.”

Having Fun – Junior Activities

by Jim Braza Thompson, Jr, Activities Chair

As we head quickly toward a new year, I’d like to update our roster of clubs that have kids and junior members enrolled in the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America Program. The listing of FRA-affiliated clubs we have on our AFMS web site is woefully out of date, so my goal is to have a new listing effective as of January 2008. I’ll be contacting all the FRA club leaders I have on file to confirm which clubs are still actively using the program, which are not, any changes in local leaders and contacts for each club and the number of kids they have involved. The results will be posted on the “Kids Corner” section of the AFMS web site. I ask that members of each regional federation reading this article please help me in this effort by putting out the word via your regional federation newsletters to have FRA-affiliated club leaders contact me (address: 7319 Eisenhower Street, Ventura, CA 93003; phone 805/659-3577, email jbraceth@roadrunner.com) with any updates they have to report.

The roster on our web site is a helpful tool in that it allows for leaders from different clubs to contact one another to see how they’ve implemented various FRA badge activities, to gain ideas for other activities beyond those in the badge program, and to exchange fun stories and gain support via dialogue. Thus, it’s important we update it at this time. Even more importantly, I’d like to add new clubs to the FRA roster!

So again, please help the effort by spreading the word about our FRA program throughout each regional federation. If you haven’t done so already, please write an article in your regional federation and local club newsletters conveying info about the Future Rockhounds of America and encouraging folks to contact me—either to update current info and status or to sign up for the program. Here’s to getting out the word while, as always, having fun.

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Dear Professor

Since I will not be in class tomorrow I will not be able to reach my lab partners. As unorganized as we are we didn’t get each others contact information. Is there any way that you have the emails or phone numbers for the two that were in my group?

Oh and by the way, I forgot their names, I bet that complicates things…sorry.

The Tale of a “Dog”

by Dee Holland, AFMS Scholarship Foundation President

A year or so Dr. Robert Carlson donated a wooden dog he had made that has a “secret compartment”. Inside the compartment was a stone Bob has faceted. I had the stone mounted in a 14K gold pendant and offered it at auction at the AFMS Convention and Show in Roswell, NM in June 2007, with the money going to the AFMS Scholarship Fund. The following August while at the NFMS show in Butte, MT the recipient, Glen Lee offered the dog back to be auctioned off again. It was his suggestion we put a collar on the dog, add a PetSmart dog tag with Glen’s name and the date of the auction.

What a great idea! We asked Dr. Bob for permission to put a plate on the dog with the information on where it came from and who donated it. This is being done as we speak. The dog collar has been bought and put on and the first of the dog tags has been added.

At the recent South Central Convention and Show in Arlington, TX the dog was once again auctioned off at the Rollin’ Rock meeting. This time the recipient was Joyce Speed with a winning donation of $200. She had her picture taken with Bob and The Dog. This time the dog had a pink faceted sunstone faceted by a member of the Intermountain Faceter’s Guild mounted in 14K gold inside. Joyce will have her name engraved on a dog tag and added to the dog collar.

“The Dog” will be taken to the many regional shows this coming year and auctioned off again, with a new faceted stone inside the “secret compartment.” The recipient will receive the stone and have their picture taken with the dog and the dog will receive a new dog tag.

At the same auction in Roswell in June a beautiful small silver bowl with fork and spoon created by the late Doris Kemp was donated by her husband Russ. Unfortunately just weeks before the show in Roswell, Russ passed away. The bowl was auctioned off and the winner was Chuck Schuler, president of South Central. He and his wife Vicki have donated the bowl back to be auctioned off as a perpetual memorial fund raiser for the Scholarship Fund in Doris and Russ’ memory. (Russ was an early AFMS Scholarship President) Details on how this will be created will be forthcoming.

Look for coming AFMS Scholarship Fundraisers in your area. Many thanks to Dr. Robert Carlson, who created “The Dog”, Glen Lee who donated it back to the Fund and also Joyce Speed, the second recipient. Thanks also to Chuck and Vicki Schuler for their idea to donate back the beautiful little silver bowl to be auctioned off again. Creative financing at it’s best.

AFMS Ways & Means

by Glenn Lee, AFMS Ways & Means Chair

I am Glenn Lee, Chairman of the AFMS Ways and Means Committee. First, a little background information. My wife Dorothy and I have been rockhounds since 1953 during which time we have attended more than 30 AFMS shows and have exhibited competitively in minerals, fossils, petrified wood, coral as well as education. We belong to the Oregon Gem & Mineral Society, a member of the Northwest Federation. I served as a judge for many years, primarily in lapidary and petrified wood, until I was diagnosed with macular degeneration. That put a stop to judging! I spent 3 years on the Uniform Rules Committee, 10 years as chairman of the Schol- arship Foundation, then 10 years as Scholarship Foundation president and a number of years working on the AFMS Endowment Fund with Charlie Leech. During my tenure, I sold 4,500 “Minerals of the World” charts to help get the Endowment Fund off on a firm foundation.

Aside from bookkeeping duties, the main function of the Ways and Means Committee is to encourage and initiate suggestions for the betterment of the federation.” (AFMS OP #17). In addition, Shirley has asked me to evaluate the finances of the AFMS and to work with Ron Carman and his Ad Hoc Study Committee for AFMS Contests and Competitions.

As a starting point, my suggestion is that these are good. But, they need more participation by our members. E.g. I can remember when Federa- 

Show Shows had more than 100 cases in competi-

tion, but now same have fewer than a dozen! A few years ago my club (we had 12 members) put 3 cases in competition, another exhibitor had 3 cases and there were 4 more. That is less than one case per thousand AFMS members – surely we can do better than that.
Congressional Wilderness Proposals

by Ron Sponaugle, ALAA Director

As promised, the following is a report on areas proposed to be included in the National Wilderness System in the current (110th) Congress. There are 17 Bills introduced (plus additional Bills for inclusion of rivers into the Wild and Scenic River System). Thirteen States are involved with most of the States west of the Mississippi River. The Exceptions are Georgia and Virginia.

The States with the largest proposed wilderness are Utah, California, and Alaska, with a three-state proposal bringing in Montana, Idaho, Wyoming into the list of large acreages. Utah has the distinction of the largest amount of proposed wilderness acreage, 9,351,840 acres, all of it in one Bill (Senate Bill 1170 and House Resolution 1919) entitled "America's Red Rock Wilderness Act of 2007".

California is a distant second with 1,652,844 acres in two separate Bills. The largest is the "California Wild Heritage Act of 2007" (S-483 and HR-960) which establishes 1,358,158 acres in five locations and the other is "the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park Wilderness Act" of 2007" (S-1744 and HR-3022) with 114,686 acres as proposed wilderness.

Alaska is third with 1,605,031 acres in two Bills: "Udall-Eisenhower Arctic Wilderness Act" (HR-39) with 1,559,538 acres in the Arctic National Wildlife Preserve, and the "Izembek and Alaska Peninsula Refuge and Wilderness Enhancement and King Safe Access Act of 2007" putting an additional 45,493 acres into wilderness.

The other large acreage proposal is a multi State proposal entitled "Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act" which proposed to connect all Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming wilderness areas with wilderness corridors. The total for this proposal is 2,155,433 acres of additional wilderness.

Other States with wilderness proposals are: Idaho, 723,480 additional acres in three Bills (S-802) "Owyhee Initiative Implementation Act of 2007", 504,078 acres, (HR-212) "Central Idaho Economic Development Act", and (S-1802) "Idaho Wilderness Boundary Modification Act";

Colorado, 252,534 acres in (S-1380 and HR-2334) "Rocky Mountain National Park and Indian Peaks Wilderness Act", 252,534 acres.

Oregon, 142,512 acres in two Bills, (S-647) "Lewis and Clark Mount Hood Wilderness Act of 2007", 128,817 acres, and (S-2034 and HR-3513) "Copper Salmon Wilderness Act", and 13,700 acres.

Washington, (S-520 and HR-886) "Wild Sky Wilderness Act", 106,000 acres.

Ad Hoc Competition Study

by Ron Carman, Chair

Our AFMS President, Shirley Leeson, has asked me to chair an Ad Hoc Committee to study the decline of participation in various contests and competitions and see if each contest warrants the expense and effort to continue as is, or to recommend changes to meet current needs, or even to eliminate if there is not enough interest in a particular competition. Each one will be evaluated on its own merit.

The committee consists of representatives from all seven federations, selected by the chair. I will be the representative from the South Central Federation and of course Chairperson. The other members from the other six regional federations are as follows: California - Dorothy Beachler Eastern - Mary Bateman Midwest - Bob & Kathy Miller Northwest - Dorothy Lee Rocky Mountain - Richard & Linda Jaeger Southeast - Buddy Schotts

The committee has been appointed for a two year period - November 1, 2007 thru October 31, 2009. We will study all AFMS sponsored contests and /or competitions to see if there is enough interest to continue them as they are set up currently. If not, the committee may make recommendations for improvement, encouraging more participation, or, in cases where improvement or participation may not be feasible, to recommend that a particular contest or competition be discontinued. The committee will make an interim report at the AFMS Convention in 2008 with recommendations for action on any particular contests that have had their evaluations completed. A final report, with additional recommendations will be made at the 2009 convention.

Some programs to be studied include, but are not limited to: Club Publications, Program Competition, Uniform Rules and Competitive Exhibits, AFMS Rockhound of the Year, and Education - All American.

Comments and suggestions are welcome from all members of all AFMS affiliated clubs nationwide. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to contact either me or the committee member(s) listed above for your federation. If you believe a particular competition should be continued, by all means say so and include any suggestions you may have for improving participation.

Thank you in advance for your thought and ideas.

Ron Carman, Chair
209 Smoky Mountain Dr
San Marcos, TX 78666
<rrcarman@centurytel.net>

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AFMS has a committee called the Club Publications Committee. It is made up of the seven regional Bulletin Editor’s Advisory Chairmen (these are the folks who are in charge of the regional bulletin contests), an At Large Member, and an appointed chairman (that’s me). Some federations may have a slightly different name for their chairman, but they ARE the person who runs your regional bulletin contest.

Most of the regional chairmen have been (some still are) successful, very competent editors. They try to align their regional contest rules with the AFMS rules, they make sure the editors in their federation receive contest information in a timely manner, they find judges for their regional bulletin contests, they present the awards at their regional bulletin contests, they send their top three winning entries in each category to AFMS, and they’re all VOLUNTEERS!

If you have a question about your regional bulletin contest, or if you have an editing question, these are good people to ask. And if you happen to see or talk to one of them, thank them for the time they spend and the great job they do! Who are they? Look below for the members of the AFMS Club Publications Committee:

California Federation
Doug Arnold
<doug.jasper@verizon.net>

Eastern Federation
Natalie Darling
<gmmseditor@comcast.net>

Midwest Federation
Cella Tiffany
<celiatiffany@aol.com>

Northwest Federation
Darlene Denton
1-360-588-0217

Rocky Mountain Federation
American Federation Chair
Linda Jaeger
<LJGRALG@aol.com>

South Central Federation
Don Shurtz
<don.shurtz@gmail.com>

Southeast Federation
Ed Johnson
<drejohnson@bellsouth.net>

Member At Large
Terry Yoschak
<yoschak@starstream.net>

As a reminder, if you have input on changes/improvements you want to see in the AFMS contest, please let me know by December 1, 2007. See my email address above.

Speaking of the AFMS Bulletin Editor’s Contest, my岩y Hart (AFMS webmaster) will soon have AFMS contest guidelines, sample scoresheets, and articles by Diane Dare online at the AFMS website. Go ahead and check <www.amfed.org>. The information may be available by the time you get this newsletter.

BYLAWS AND OPERATING PROCEDURES

The Bylaws and Operating Procedures Committee’s function is multi-pronged.

The bylaws of the AFMS (and any organization) are the hard and fast “rules” that govern the running of the organization.

Operating Procedures (OPs) are the general guidelines under which each officer or committee chair does his job. The OPs generally specify what needs to be done and in some cases, how it’s to be done.

The primary function of the Bylaws and OP Committee is to maintain the Bylaws and Operating Procedures that govern the AFMS in current and correct form. This includes checking to see that the OPs don’t conflict with the bylaws.

One of the most obvious ways we can encourage new members to join our ranks is by letting folks know about us. With this in mind I am asking that we all begin immediately to submit articles to as many newspapers, magazines and local publications as possible, invite the press to your club show or other special event, issue a public announcement inviting guests to meetings, especially when you have scheduled a special speaker or program. If you make a special presentation or a member of your group receives a special award, be sure it is recognized in an article sent to the media. And always include in your press releases information about when and where you hold meetings, a statement that guests are welcome and details about who to contact for more information. It is not enough to put articles in club and federation newsletters. The people who read these publications already know what we are all about. While we are always happy to hear about our local and regional organizations are doing, in order to attract new members we also need to let everyone else know. This is a wonderful hobby with many benefits. For example, I can’t imagine not meeting new people and learning more about geology, rocks, minerals and lapidary arts. I had no idea what I was getting into. In those ten years I have indeed had a lot of fun, met many wonderful people and learned more than I could have imagined. I have also served as Secretary of my local club for four years, Historian for the past five or six years and am currently in my fourth year as President, Show and Dealer Chairs. Regional Federation activities have included one year as a committee member followed by six years as chair of that committee. I then moved on to 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President and have just concluded my term as President of Eastern Federation. The past two years I have attended the AFMS Conventions as a Regional Director and member of the AFMS Scholarship Committee.

When our new President, Shirley Leezon, asked me to serve as chairman of the AFMS Public Relations Committee I gave it considerable thought before I accepted, mostly because I was not sure I could do a good job. I have since then realized that I cannot possibly hope to do so without your help, feedback and cooperation.

The Operating Procedures of the AFMS state the purpose of the Public Relations Committee is to “Add to the stature and public image of the AFMS.” But what exactly does that mean to me – and to you? The first thing that comes to my mind when I consider this question is the fact that many, if not most, of our clubs, regional federations and the AFMS have seen a steady decrease in membership in recent years. Why is that and what can we do about it? I believe one reason is that we are not getting the word out about who we are and what we do. In the coming months I will be trying very hard to reverse this trend, but it will take time and I need your help and feedback.

One of the most obvious ways we can encourage new members to join our ranks is by letting folks know about us. With this in mind I am asking that we all begin immediately to submit articles to as many newspapers, magazines and local publications as possible, invite the press to your club show or other special event, issue a public announcement inviting guests to meetings, especially when you have scheduled a special speaker or program. If you make a special presentation or a member of your group receives a special award, be sure it is recognized in an article sent to the media. And always include in your press releases information about when and where you hold meetings, a statement that guests are welcome and details about who to contact for more information. It is not enough to put articles in club and federation newsletters. The people who read these publications already know what we are all about. While we are always happy to hear about our local and regional organizations are doing, in order to attract new members we also need to let everyone else know. This is a wonderful hobby with many benefits. For example, I can’t imagine not meeting new people and learning more about geology, rocks, minerals and lapidary arts. I had no idea what I was getting into. In those ten years I have indeed had a lot of fun, met many wonderful people and learned more than I could have imagined. I have also served as Secretary of my local club for four years, Historian for the past five or six years and am currently in my fourth year as President, Show and Dealer Chairs. Regional Federation activities have included one year as a committee member followed by six years as chair of that committee. I then moved on to 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President and have just concluded my term as President of Eastern Federation. The past two years I have attended the AFMS Conventions as a Regional Director and member of the AFMS Scholarship Committee.

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In addition "Agates Close-up", this year's Program Competition Winner, each Regional Program Library will receive nine other programs. The list includes six segments from the "PaleoWorld" series. VHS - 30 minutes each (in alphabetical order).

"Amber Hunters" - Dominican amber is studied and highly prized because of the varied species perfectly preserved in fossil resin - so well DNA can be extracted.

"Dino Doctors" - Non-invasive medical scans reveal not only anatomy but also help scientists learn about the genesis of diseases common to dinosaurs and humans.

"Monsters on the Move" - Trackways - fossilized footprints reveal a wealth of dinosaur behavior and habits to those who can decipher the clues.

"Mammoths" - A North Dakota site reveals clues about the lives and extinction of these creatures that roamed parts of North America, as recently as 11,000 years ago.

"The Legendary T-Rex" - Was this the perfect predator or a lowly scavenger? The answer isn't conclusive but more clues are revealed as intimate details are revealed.

"Treasure Island" - Madagascar was once inhabited by extraordinary and weird creatures. David Krause's team seeks to resolve natural history mysteries found there.

"Umoona" - A 26-minute DVD in two parts that shows the history of (Australian) opal hunting and depicts an aboriginal folk tale of how opal was created.

"Geology - Why Bother?" - A 26-minute DVD reveals that geology isn't about things that happened millions of years ago. It's events going on around us every day!

* Information about the 2007 AFMS Program Competition winner was published in the August AFMS Newsletter. Your Regional Program Librarian can give you more information as well.

All these programs will be soon be available from your Regional Program Library. Watch your Regional Newsletter for details or contact the Program Librarian.

NOTE: 2008 Program Competition information will be published next month. Or go to <www.amfed.org/prog_comp.htm> and refer to the 2007 information. There will be minimal changes made for 2008.

LETS GET GEMSTONES ON U.S. STAMPS

Many thanks to President Shirley Leeson for her fervent support of the Commemorative Stamp Committee's Project. We have decided that the USPS would probably be more receptive to BIRTHSTONES on stamps because of their universal appeal. Nearly everyone knows their birthstone!

Persistence pays, and in the competitive atmosphere of getting stamps into print, we believe that it is very important to continue to endorse our request for birthstones on stamps. It is a first class idea, really an extension of the "Our Mineral Heritage" theme of the two prior mineral stamp sets issued in 1974 and 1992. We part because we think that the stamps would be beautiful and welcomed by not only Gem and Mineral collectors and admirers but also postal customers in general. Did you send a previous request to the CSAC? Help by sending another. Persistence pays.

A new tack, perhaps more persuasive, would be to ask for personalized letters to be sent, as opposed to forms, which might get lower priority consideration, or even be disregarded. Let's give it a try. I will require a little bit more effort and a first class stamp (going to $0.41 in May). Hopefully we can stick 'em (Formerly lick 'em) on envelopes in the near future. It's a gem of an idea!

Send this to: The Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee Stamp Development US Postal Service 1735 North Lynn St., Room 5013 Arlington VA 22209-8432 Wendell C. Mohr, Chairman, Commemorative Stamp Committee

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MEET YOUR AFMS PERSONNEL

Part 1 of a series

President – Shirley Leeson (CFMS)
Shirley is a native of San Diego, CA and has been involved with clubs, the California Federation and the AFMS for at least 40 years! Before assuming the mantle of AFMS President for 2008, she served as her club editor and president, president of the CFMS and CFMS and AFMS Historian for a number of years. She is also the "founder" of the Editors' Hall of Fame. Most recently she also serves as Historian for the NFMS. When you see Shirley, you will also find the love of her life, Dee Holland.

President Elect – Joy Bourne (EFMS)
Joy resides with her husband Clyf in the small town of Towanda, PA. She’s been very active in her local club, serving in a number of capacities including that of editor for their award winning bulletin. For the Eastern Federation she “went through the chairs”, actually serving almost two full terms as President due to the resignation of her predecessor, and also served as chair of the Bulletin Editors’ Advisory Committee and Eastern Foundation Fund (Endowment) Committee. Joy has served the AFMS as regional Vice President and as current chair of the AFMS Endowment Fund.

1st Regional VP - Emerson Tucker (SCFMS)
Emerson and his wife Pat live in Lubbock, TX where he’s held the position of Vice President and President as well as being a member of the club Board of Directors for several years. He’s served as South Central Federation President (1982) and was the AFMS 4th Regional VP in 2005. He's been SCFMS Endowment Fund Treasurer since 1994 and has kept a very careful eye on the investments and growth of that fund.

2nd Regional VP - John Blue (MWF)
A native Iowan, John retired from the US Food & Drug Administration after 30 years of service. He became “hooked” on lapidary after winning a piece of goldstone at his first rock show in 1974 and has been actively cutting and teaching cab cutting and faceting since then. He’s edited numerous club bulletins and is the current editor for the MWF Directory. He served as Midwest President as well as other offices and committee positions. He and his wife Rose (MWF Vice
ALL AMERICAN Club “Yearbook” Award
from John R. Wabbanen, Chairman

It’s time again to polish up your club’s annual history in a yearbook and “strut your stuff!” Let’s get those ALL AMERICAN CLUB “Yearbooks” ready for entry in this year’s contest. We know you are doing a great job of promoting the hobby, so why not show off all you have done? Scrapbooking continues to be the rage, and it’s a good way to document your club’s activities and history.

Two clubs that entered “scrap-book type” yearbooks last year won gold! An ALL AMERICAN yearbook on your membership table at your show is a proven device for spurring on new memberships. So, its usefulness is more than just a history, it’s a membership lure!

Entry forms for 2007 are included in the November 2007 issue of the AFMS Newsletter, and they are also available on the AFMS Web site for clubs to download. Be sure that you have the proper set of requirements, as some changes have been made based on comments from the clubs and judges. The contest concentrates on six (6) areas of interest. These areas were chosen to give the judges a complete picture of what your club is doing, both internally and externally, to promote the hobby.

It is essential that each section have the proper documentation to show what was done by the club or members to warrant the points allotted. Examples of letters, flyers, newspaper articles, as well as club bulletin articles, and pictures are some items that make for excellent documentation. Specific activities are listed in the various sections, and those activities should be reported in the appropriate section of the yearbook. The documents need not be originals, as copies will suffice.

Remember, the judges don’t necessarily know your club, so good, clear organization and documentation for each claim must be provided.

The yearbook is to cover the calendar year 2006. Entries are to be submitted to your regional ALL AMERICAN Merit Awards Chair. See your own regional federation newsletter for the deadline date set by your region.

The complete rules are on page 10.

AVOIDING CONFLICTS WITH REGIONAL FEDERATION CONVENTIONS by Bob Livingston, AFMS Show Consultant

We are in a new year and new people -- including me in this role. In order to keep us all on the straight and narrow, please contact me well in advance re your intentions on Convention dates. I am charged by President Leeson in giving it my all to avoid Regional Convention timing conflicts which has happened a time or two in the past.

You may be saying, who gives a damn. Or worse. It is this simple: a majority of AFMS Presidents want to make the rounds and attend every regional convention possible. I know Bob Carlson did a yeoman job in making the rounds in the past 12 months. If, and if it is a big IF, your federation accepts a host club with show dates already spoken for by another federation host club, there is no way the current AFMS president can be in both places at once. So your club’s miss the great opportunity of having the big man or lady there at your show and convention. In the past, when this has happened it has caused a lot of grief. With just a little forethought and planning, this is what we want to avoid. Even more importantly, we want to make sure that a federation who is hosting the AFMS show does not conflict with any other regional show. There is no doubt when that happens, where the president will head. In addition, those kind of conflicts take away the opportunity for exhibits judges and other core people to sometimes serve in both places.

Mary Trammel, has left me in good shape for which I am grateful and thank her. You can see by this issue of the AFMS Newsletter that we are all set for all federations except, I need to hear from Southeast where and when their convention/show for 2008 will be, so we can fill in the gap in the chart. Beyond that, we have one only, in place for each of the years 2009 and 2010. It is not too soon to begin talking it up in your federations and getting your host club slotted in. I appreciate the cooperation you will give me in this role.

My preference is E-mails. Here is my contact information:

Bob Livingston
59 Ely Drive, Fayetteville, NY 13066
315-446-4505 <gemguy@verizon.net>

UPCOMING REGIONAL FEDERATION CONVENTIONS
from Bob Livingston, AFMS Convention Consultant

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>California Federation</th>
<th>Eastern Federation</th>
<th>Midwest Federation</th>
<th>Northwest Federation</th>
<th>Rocky Mountain Federation</th>
<th>South Central Federation</th>
<th>Southeast Federation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>June 15-17 Lancaster, CA</td>
<td>Oct. 6 - 7 Newark, NY</td>
<td>Aug. 11-12 Houghton, MI</td>
<td>Aug. 3 - 5 Battle, MT</td>
<td>AFMS June 5 - 10 Roswell, NM</td>
<td>Sept. 1 - 2 Arlington, TX</td>
<td>Nov. 9-11 Pascoagus, MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>June 27-29 Ventura, CA</td>
<td>Feb. 23-24 Jackson, MS</td>
<td>June 20-22 Lincoln, NE</td>
<td>June 20-22 Ontario, OR</td>
<td>Oct. 31 - Nov. 2 Tulsa, OK</td>
<td>AFMS Sept. 25-28 Humble, TX</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>May 16-17 Painesville, OH</td>
<td>AFMS</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

“...This the nice isolated spot that no other rockhounds know about…”

via Golden Spike News 8/00

by Erston Barnhart
from Rock Buster News, March, 1988
SECTION 1 - CLUB INFORMATION (NO POINTS AWARDED)

Club Name & Address ____________________________
Date organized __________________ Federation affiliation __________________
Number of members: Adults___Honorary/Life___ Juniors___

[Don't combine Honorary/Life with total adults.]
Meeting Place: ________________________________

[Include city, state]
Person filling out form: Name ______________________
Address: ______________________________________ City: State: Zip:
Phone: ________________________ E-mail: ____________________________
Mission or purpose of the club: ______________________

SECTION 2 – SERVICE TO MEMBERS OR GUESTS (30 POSSIBLE)

General Meetings: Number of meetings________
Average attendance________ Guests________
Doors Prizes: Yes_____ No_____ #_____
Programs: *Include a separate list of programs for the year, including topic, speaker, etc.

Board Meetings: Number of meetings________
Average attendance________ Guests________
Officers: *Include a separate list of officers, directors, and committee chairman.
Junior Meetings: Number of meetings________
Average attendance________ Guests________
Adult leader(s): ____________________________
Special Group Meetings (Established groups): Number attending -

CABBING Faceting Metal-working Intarsia Jewelry making Other [Indicate type.]
Mineral study Fossil study

Show fliers posted in public places: Yes_____ No_____ #_____

Dealers: Yes_____ No_____ #____ Members attending: #____
Members working: #____
Demonstrators: Yes_____ No_____ #____
Displays: Yes_____ No_____ #____

Special Features: Club library: Yes_____ No_____ Number of books: ______
Field Trips: Yes_____ No_____ #____ No. of trips in field ______ Other ______
Other clubs invited? Yes_____ No_____ #____
Non-members allowed? Yes_____ No_____ #____
Workshop: Yes_____ No_____ #____
Website: Yes_____ No_____ URL _________________

*Include a separate list of workshops.
Traveling club display (For other club shows, youth groups, schools, etc.): Yes_____ No_____ #_____

SECTION 3 - PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLICITY (15 POSSIBLE)

Bulletin: Yes_____ No_____ Bulletin name: ____________________________
Editor’s name: ____________________________
Meeting notices posted in public places: Yes_____ No_____ #____
Where?: ______________________________________
Meeting notices published in local media: Yes_____ No_____ #____
Where?: ______________________________________
Show fliers posted in public places: Yes_____ No_____ #____
Where?: ______________________________________
Show information published in local media: Yes_____ No_____ #____
Where?: ______________________________________

Free or paid ads on TV or radio: Meeting notices: Yes_____ No_____ #____
Show information: Yes_____ No_____ #____

Copies of supporting material to include in report: 1) fliers; 2) media articles about the club activities; 3) show ads; 4) show or meeting notices from newspapers; 5) articles copied from club newsletter; 6) other.

SECTION 4 - SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL FEDERATIONS, AFMS AND OTHER CLUBS (20 POINTS POSSIBLE)

Members served as Federation Officers, Committee Chairs or committee members:
Regional federation: Yes_____ No_____ #____
AFMS: Yes_____ No_____ #____

*Include a separate list of members serving.

Members attended a Federation convention or show:
Regional Federation: Yes_____ No_____ #____
AFMS: Yes_____ No_____ #____

*Include a separate list of members serving.

Members supported Federation scholarships or endowment funds:
Regional: Scholarship fund: Yes_____ No_____ #____
Endowment fund: Yes_____ No_____ #____
AFMS: Scholarship fund: Yes_____ No_____ #____
Endowment fund: Yes_____ No_____ #____

*Include a separate list of those given.

Members gave programs for other clubs: Yes_____ No_____ #____

*Include a separate list.
Members attended other club shows, swaps, etc.: Yes_____ No_____ #____
Members held joint field trips with other clubs: Yes_____ No_____ #____
Members displayed/demonstrated at other club shows: Yes_____ No_____ #____
Club exchanged bulletin with other clubs: Yes_____ No_____ #____

*Include a separate list.

Supporting material should include lists of all the above persons, positions, etc., and could include pictures, thank you cards, letters and certificates of appreciation, reports from club newsletter, etc.

SECTION 5 - COMMUNITY RELATIONS (15 POINTS POSSIBLE)

Members gave talks or demonstrations at local schools: Yes_____ No_____ #____
Members gave talks or demonstrations to local groups: Yes_____ No_____ #____

*Include a separate list of those given.
Members maintained displays at local public sites: Yes_____ No_____ #____

*Include a separate list of sites.
Members maintained a booth, or an activity, at a local event: Yes_____ No_____ #____

*Include a separate list of events.
Members donated materials to school, nursing home, etc.: Yes_____ No_____ #____
Members active in local affairs: Yes_____ No_____ #____

Supporting material for the above should provide details for these items, and could include pictures, thank you cards, letters and certificates of appreciation, reports from club newsletter, etc.

SECTION 6 - GOVERNMENT AGENCY AND LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS (10 POINTS POSSIBLE)

Members served on governmental agency committees: Yes_____ No_____ #____

*Include a separate list of those who served.
Members provided comments on governmental agency proposals, etc.
Yes_____ No_____ #____
*Include a separate list of proposals and participants.
Members contacted congressional representatives regarding legislation affecting access to sites, and collecting from same: Yes_____ No_____ #____
*Include a separate list of representatives contacted and legislation.
Club or members supported access/collection lobbying organizations:
Yes_____ No_____ #____
*Include a separate list of organizations.

Supporting materials should include details for all of the above items, reports from club newsletter, and should include copies of correspondence.

SECTION 7 - OVERALL FORMAT AND PRESENTATION - (10 POINTS POSSIBLE)

This section evaluates the entry on neatness, organization, grammar, spelling, and overall presentation of material

SCORING AND AWARDS

- Gold All-American Club Award: 90 - 100 points (average of three)
- Silver All-American Club Award: 80 - 89 points (average of three)
- Bronze All-American Club Award: 70 - 79 points (average of three)
- Honorable Mention: Less 70 points (average of three)

Instructors for completing the entry form:
1. Each entry is to be submitted as a single document, limited to a maximum of 100 pages (one- or two-sided), including text and graphics. A loose leaf notebook or scrapbook are suitable binders.
2. The document should have six (6) sections, divided with the numbers 1 - 6, with the entry form in section 1 and the supporting documentation for each of the entry sections following the appropriate divider. There is no restriction on the number of pages in any one section, PROVIDED THE TOTAL OF ALL SECTIONS DOES NOT EXCEED 100 PAGES.
3. When filling out the entry form, mark all appropriate blanks and entry numbers, or other information where requested. Assemble requested supporting materials and lists following the appropriate section divider and insert photos and other graphics following the typed information.
4. All requested material is for the year 2007.
5. Deadline for submitting to the AFMS chairman is April 15, 2008. Check with your regional chairs for their deadlines.
AFMS Committee Chairpersons

Here is the listing of the people who have agreed to serve as AFMS Chairs for 2006-7. Please feel free to contact these people or the person in your regional federation who serves on the as well- if you need information or have ideas to share with them.

AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year
Cathy Gaber
<bg@his.com>

AFMS Newsletter
Carolyn Weinberger
P.O. Box 302; Glyndon, MD 21071-0302
410-633-7926
<editor@amfed.org>

Boundaries
John Wright
<osjbw@datasync.com>

Bulletin Editor Hall of Fame
Kitty Starbuck
<minedump@iserv.net>

ByLaws Revisory
Steve Weinberger
<central_office@amfed.org>

Central Office
Steve Weinberger
P.O. Box 302; Glyndon, MD 21071-0302
410-633-7926
<central_office@amfed.org>

Club Publications
Linda Jaeger
<LIGRALG@aol.com>

Commemorative Stamp
Wendell Mohr - Chair
<wmohr@erols.com>

Conservation and Legislation
John Wright
see Boundaries

Education-All American
John Washburn
<jwashburn2@msn.com>

Endowment Fund
Joy Bourne
<csprings@epix.net>

Financial Investment
<slharuir@yahoo.com>

Historian
Shirley Leeson
<president@amfed.org> and
<beauholland@salmoninternet.com>

International Relations
Bob Jones

Judges Training Seminar
Dee Holland
<beauholland@salmoninternet.com>
and <president@amfed.org>

Junior Programs
Jim Brace-Tompson
<jbraceth@roadrunner.com>

Long Range Planning
Dr. Robert Carlson
<drobertcarlson@yahoo.com>

Trophies and Name Badges
Frank Mulaney
<rockyfly@aol.com>

Nominating
Dr. Robert Carlson
<drobertcarlson@yahoo.com>

Parliamentarian
Dee Holland
<beauholland@salmoninternet.com>
and <president@amfed.org>

Past President’s Advisory
Dr. Robert Carlson
<drobertcarlson@yahoo.com>

Photography
Chuck Mckie
<chuckmckie@aol.com>

Program Competition
Marge Collins - Chair
<margaret@qtm.net>

Safety
Don Monroe
<donmonroe@attwindstream.net>

Show Consultant
Bob Livingston
<gemguy@verizon.net>

Publications
B. Jay Bowman
<bjb@wildblue.net>

Ways and Means
Glenn Lee
704 SW 31st St
Pendleton, OR 97801

Uniform Rules
Ron Carman
<rcarman@centurytel.net>

URC Eligibility Files
Anne Cook
<secretary@amfed.org>

Website/Webmaster
Marty Hart - Chair
<webmaster@amfed.org>

Ad Hoc Competition Study
Ron Carman
<rcarman@centurytel.net>

Ad Hoc Inter-Regional Field Trip
Dick Pankey
<dickpankey@juno.com>
ROCK & GEM AND THE AFMS

With the recent changes made to Lapidary Journal from the format we’ve known for years, rockhounds are left with only one true outlet for listing their club or club show - Rock & Gem Magazine. Our own International Relations Chair Bob Jones serves as the Sr. Consulting Editor for the magazine and its pages are filled with collecting and “how to” information, club show listings etc. We still have Rocks & Minerals and Mineralogical Record magazines for the more technical mineral oriented collectors, but R & G not only deals with minerals, but lapidary and fossils as well. Articles are written in an easy to understand manner that almost everyone can understand. They also have a section for kids - the future of our hobby!

Are you aware that you can have your club show listed in Rock & Gem? The magazine has a 3 month “lead” time, so you’ll need to notify them far enough in advance, but all you need to do is send the show information to:
Rock & Gem Show Dates
290 Maple Ct, Suite 232
Ventura, CA 93003
<editor@rockngem.com>
or fill out the electronic form on the Rock & Gem website <www.rockngem.com/showdates.asp>.

Do you also know that Rock & Gem maintains a listing of clubs and that your club can be listed in Rock & Gem? The magazine has the future of our hobby!

AFMS Code of Ethics

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner’s permission.
I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings.
I will leave all gates as found.
I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.
I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
I will support the rockhounding project H.E.L.P (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and Will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
I will observe the “Golden Rule”, will use “Good Outdoor Manners” and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public “Image” of rockhounds everywhere.

THE AFMS LAND USE POLICY

1. Adherence to the AFMS Code of Ethics assures compliance with most statutes and regulations governing collecting on public lands and encourages respect for private property rights and the environment. Clubs are urged to read the AFMS Code of Ethics in at least one meeting every year, to publish the Code frequently in the club newsletter, and to compel compliance on club field trips.
2. Individuals and clubs are urged to write their elected representatives and land use management agency supervisors regarding issues of rule making, legislation and enforcement affecting field collecting of minerals and fossils.
3. Individuals and clubs are urged to join and support activities of the American Lands Access Association (ALAA), a sister organization with responsibility for advancing the interests of earth science amateurs with legislatures and land use management agencies.
4. The AFMS will receive a report from ALAA at its annual meeting.
5. The AFMS endorses the principle of multiple use of public lands as a guarantee of continuing recreational opportunities.
6. Wilderness and monument designations are inconsistent with the principle of multiple use. In view of the vast amount of public land already designated as wilderness and monuments, future such designations should be minimal, taking into account the increased demand for recreational opportunities, including rockhounding, created by a growing population.
7. In furtherance of the principle of multiple use, the AFMS believes that laws, regulations and rules established by relevant governmental authorities should be designed to allow freest possible access to all public lands, coupled with minimal restrictions on the recreational collection of minerals, fossils, gemstone materials and other naturally occurring materials.
8. A right to collect minerals and fossils on public lands should be protected by statute.
9. The AFMS urges its members to work with any or all government authorities to achieve a good working relationship in order to improve the “Public Image” of recreational collectors.