What’s on YOUR Club Website?

by Fran Sick, Public Relations Chair

As more and more clubs are developing websites it becomes easier to contact them, but sometimes only if you are a rockhound specifically searching for a rock and mineral club. So maybe our websites are not nearly as helpful as they could be. To give you an example of why I say this, let me tell you a true story about something that happened just a few weeks ago.

I received an e-mail from someone who recently had some changes in her life and finally had time to pursue her own interests. She was looking for lapidary classes and also loved hiking and camping. She found my e-mail address while searching for jewelry classes and, of course, had no idea where I was located. I found out where she lived, which was over one thousand miles from my location, and was able to put her in touch with a rock and mineral club which was only about 15 minutes from her home. Within four days she had contacted them, attended a club meeting and become a member. There is nothing so unusual about that, right? Well, that club did have a website. They also had a workshop, with a variety of lapidary classes, and an active field trip program. But this lady did not know anything about rock and mineral clubs and by searching for jewelry classes she could not find them. In the last e-mail I received from her she said finding this club was like waking up on Christmas morning and finding a pile of presents under the Christmas tree. Now she has not only found her jewelry classes but has a whole group of new friends and people to go hiking with, and she can collect some nice rocks along the way.

I freely admit that my computer skills are limited, and I have no idea how to develop a website. But all the computer wizards who are developing and maintaining them for rock and mineral clubs around the country certainly do. I hope this story will give you some ideas for making better use of your club website.

If the only information you provide is your club name and address, contact information, meeting dates and location, your club motto and/or logo, show dates and location and other basic information, maybe you could expand it to tell more about all of your activities, using key words that anyone can find if they are searching for those kinds of activities, even if they have never heard of rock and mineral clubs. If these folks are not currently rockhounds and you can get their attention maybe they soon will be.

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AFMS/NFMS SHOW & CONVENTION
JULY 30, 31 AUGUST 1, 2009
30,000 SQ FEET OF GEMS, JEWELRY, FOSSILS, & MINERALS
SEE THE MOON ROCK FROM NASA
DIINOSAURS * YOSO SAPPHIRES * CAVE BEAR
WHERE: HOLIDAY INN TRADE CENTER
5500 MICHIGAN ROAD
BILLINGS, MONTANA
WHEN: THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY
10:00 A.M. TO 9:00 P.M.
FRIDAY, AUGUST 1
10:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.
Tickets: $3.00 per day
2 Day Pass $6.00
1 Day Pass $3.50
Children under 6 free
Enjoy over $100,000 worth of gem and mineral displays from all over the world!
For more information, email them at info@afmsnfms.org or call 406-245-7150.

Address Service Requested
By the time you read this, our local club show for 2009 will have been and gone for another year. And as always we had a wonderful turnout of show patrons enjoying the displays and exhibits and demonstrations and addition to the good food and excellent dealers. The kids especially like the Mini Mine where they can draw a little mine car full of gravel and special stones out of the mine to add to their stores of treasures. They also like the chance to polish their very own stones on the cabbing machine under the watchful eye of a club member. They feel very important to put on the plastic aprons and goggles, choose their own preformed stone on a stick, and then actually finish a cabochon on the cabbing machine. There is always a long line of kids waiting their turns at that table. And, of course the geode-cutting room is another very popular show feature with both kids and adults, as is the spectacular fluorescent room presentation.

It is a lot of work to put on for a two-day event, but well worth it! Each year, we draw new people in to the hobby. Unfortunately, it usually the same 30 or so club members (out of 100+) who are always there to work the whole show from setup to tear-down every year. Does that sound familiar?

In our travels to club and federation shows around the country, I have seen the same phenomenon. And now as AFMS President, I am seeing that the same sort of thing happening in our Federations - it is the same dedicated people carrying on the work of the local clubs and Federations, year after year. Why? I cannot believe that all the other Rockhounds are lazy hangers-on.

Could it be that those members are just waiting for someone to invite them to take a job? As I read the newsletters I am seeing in my e-mail, I am really impressed with the new young leadership among the newsletter editors’ ranks. It is a whole new world out there, and the spirit is contagious!

Why not try it? Ask some bright new (or older) member to do something - whether it is to help at the show, or take an office in your organization or plan a field trip. Tell him/her you will be happy to help if you have questions - and then let him/her show you a new thing or two. You just might be pleasantly surprised!

'Til next month.

Joy

...seen any good programs lately?

By Marge Collins, Program Chair

...if so, they could earn recognition beyond the “Great program! …I learned a lot”, and similar comments from the audience.

If you – or a fellow Club member - produced an earth science related presentation recently, we encourage you (or you can encourage others) to take the next step. Authors of great programs deserve something extra in the way of recognition - through AFMS Program Competition. First, the satisfaction of sharing with Clubs across the country; second, there are cash awards to defray production expenses. If it’s a Club project there are extra rewards of camaraderie, development of member’s talents – perhaps inspiring even more good programs.

The guidelines and rules are straightforward. Digital, VHS and old-fashioned 35mm slide presentations related to our hobby are eligible. See the AFMS website, contact your Regional Librarian or the coordinator below for details. Deadline! Probably too late for this year (4-15-09) …but it’s not too early to be get ready for the 2010 deadline. We’re looking forward to seeing your entry!

Marge Collins
Program Competition Coordinator
phone: 269-695-4313
e-mail: margaret@qtm.net

(If you don’t receive a reply within a few days call)

Uniform Rules Meeting

By Barbara Jacobsen, URC Chair

The AFMS Uniform Rules Committee will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday July 28, 2009 in conjunction with the AFMS/NFMS Show in Billings, Montana.

The meeting will be at the host hotel at 1:00 PM. Proposals for changes to the AFMS Uniform Rules should be sent via e-mail to <barbjak@embarqmail.com> before May 15 to allow for distribution of proposals 60 days prior to the annual meeting.
Purpose of the AFMS:
To promote popular interest and education in the various Earth Sciences, and in particular the subjects of Geology, Mineralogy, Paleontology and related subjects, and to sponsor and provide means of coordinating the work and efforts of all persons and groups interested therein; to sponsor and encourage the formation and international development of Societies and Regional Federations and by and through such means to strive toward greater international good will and fellowship.

The A.F.M.S. Newsletter is published monthly except January, July and August by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Address corrections and changes to:
AFMS Central Office
Steve Weinberger
PO Box 302
Glyndon, MD 21071-0302
410-833-7926
<central_office@amfed.org>

Subscription Information:
Each Regional Federation Club is entitled to receive three (3) copies of the AFMS Newsletter. These are sent to the President, Editor and Federation Director or Secretary.

Subscriptions are $4.50 per year.
Remit payment to the AFMS Central Office.
Checks should be made payable to "AFMS".

Address maintenance and mail labeling are the responsibility of the AFMS Central Office.

ALL CHANGES AND QUESTIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO:
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CONTENT – LETTERS
Editorial Comments – Submissions
Any communication concerning the content or format of the Newsletter should be sent to the Editor:
Carolyn Weinberger
PO Box 302
Glyndon, MD 21071-0302
410-833-7926
<editor@amfed.org>

Deadline is the 1st of each month preceding publication (i.e., April 1 for the May issue)

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Three Terrific New Prizes Could Be Yours!
by Dee Holland, Endowment Fund Chair

The prizes keep coming, but your time for purchasing tickets for the 2009 Endowment Fund Drawing is running short! Tickets are $5 each or 5 for $20 and proceeds will go toward growing the Endowment Fund principal. Interest from this fund is used to promote various AFMS projects that benefit all regional federation member clubs. The drawing will be held during the NFMS/AFMS Convention in Billings, MT this July and you need not be present to win.

Here’s information about three new prizes that have just been added.

Prize #7 is an oval carving of calcite with quartz and magnetite dendrites. It weighs approximately 4 pounds and measures 6” x 4” x 4”. The prize was donated by James Gaddey of Joplin, MO and is valued at $115.00. (MWF).

Prize #8 is a carving of a dogwood flower. The flower is of rhodonite with the center and leaves carved from chrysoprase. The stem is petrified wood and the entire piece is mounted on petrified wood. Donated by Kenneth Neaves of Lansing, NC who made this as a direct donation. Estimated value is $450.00. There is no photo yet available.

Prize #9 - a faceted 10 mm lemon citrine set in a 14k gold pendant. The stone was faceted by Steve Weinberger, 2003 AFMS Past President and is valued at $125 (EFMLS).

Please contact your regional Endowment Fund chairs for tickets:
California Federation
Colleen McGann
PO Box 224 Santa Clara, CA 95052-0224

Eastern Federation
Carolyn Weinberger
PO Box 302, Glyndon, MD 21071-0302

Midwest Federation
John Washburn
107 Deer Creek Rd. Rochester, IL 62563

Northwest Federation
Rocky Mc Call
8330 27th St. NW, Stanwood, WA 98292

Rocky Mt. Federation
Richard Jaeger
3515 E 88th St. Tulsa, OK 74137-2602

South Central Federation
Bill Patillo
619 Wright St. Robstown, TX 78380-3815

Southeast Federation
Bill Waggener
1909 Moores Mill Rd. Atlanta, GA 30318

To purchase tickets, send a SASE Envelope along with your check, payable to “AFMS Endowment” to the chairman for your regional federation.

We still have promises of a number of donations but at this time they have not surfaced. Stay tuned.

You can see all the 2009 Endowment Fund prizes in “living color” by visiting the AFMS Website:
<www.amfed.org/endow2009.htm>
A Webmaster Contest! What is that for? Let me tell you. This contest exists to help webmasters enhance their club Web sites. The goal is to increase the interest of the general public in the gem and mineral hobby, to gain new members, and to serve as a source of current club information for their members.

The judges assigned to the seven regional federations— Mike Baldwin, Stephen Douglas, Dan Imel, Wes Lingerfeldt, Al Pennington, and Don Shurts—are serving as mentors for these various clubs by giving the webmasters encouragement and friendly constructive criticism on what they are doing right and where they need to improve.

The Webmaster Contest also has its own logos! Bob Gibbs, editor and webmaster for the Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club of Charlotte, North Carolina, is also a graphic artist extraordinaire. Ron donated his time and expertise to design and develop our two logos—one for the AFMS (top) and one representing the regional federations (lower). He has also generated animated gifs (small images that have a moving part) that will be awarded to the top two winners in each federation and the top three winners at the AFMS level. These are for placement on the winning Web sites to let visitors know the high quality of the site.

Thank you to Marty Hart (AFMS Webmaster) for steering me to Ron and his extraordinary skill. I’ve received e-mails (before the contest started) telling me that the judging information and guidelines published for the contest have already helped some of the webmasters who want to improve their sites and do well in the contest.

Dan Alfrey, webmaster of Lake George Gem & Mineral Club, Lake George, Colorado wrote: “We’ve had a lot of fun with our site. This contest truly has motivated our club to update our site and make sure everything is fully functional! We sincerely appreciate the guidelines and scoring references in order to help make the site more informative and complete!”

Bob Loeffler, webmaster of North Jeffco Gem & Mineral Club, Arvada, Colorado wrote: “I think this contest is a great idea because it might help push clubs to create a Web site (if they haven’t already done so) or keep their existing Web site updated with fun and relevant info to help educate the public.”

Two judges were assigned to each region, but none of the judges is from the regions they judged. Each contestant’s combined scores from the two judges were averaged to determine his or her final placement in their region. Judging of the regional federations has just completed as this is being written, and the first place winner in each federation has been forwarded to Bob Keller who is our judge at the AFMS level.

No trophies will be awarded at the regional level. The original plan was to award a trophy to the first place winner in each regional federation. I recently learned that the regional federations have not had an opportunity to vote on whether they support the Webmaster Contest, so no regional first place plaques can be awarded this year. However, we will be awarding certificates for each of the top ten places and for honorable mentions to everyone who is disappointed about this, but the contest will be running for at least two more years, so maybe the policy can be changed going forward.

There will not be a plaque awarded to the first place regional federation winners, but I think they will receive something far better than a plaque. The first place winners will each have their entries forwarded to Bob Keller, the man who is judging at the AFMS level.

Bob is the first rockhound webmaster to have a presence on the World Wide Web—the Internet. Bob put the first rock shop up on the Internet in March 1995, and he called it Bob’s Rock Shop. It began as a home page with links or so images of rocks from his own collection. It is still called Bob’s Rock Shop and is still at <www.rockhound.com/> but it is now tremendously more than that.

Bob will give the regional first place winners the benefit of his wisdom, his extensive Web experience, and his knowledge of what works and what doesn’t. He will analyze each of the sites forwarded to him, and he will give useful feedback on what is being done well and how each site can be improved. Thank you, Bob, for agreeing to participate in our contest, for giving our first place regional winners the benefit of your hard-won wisdom as the world’s premier rockhound webmaster, and for helping us achieve our goal of having rock and gem club Web sites that are as good as they can be.

All the contestants participating at the AFMS level will receive a certificate signifying their ranking, and the first place winner will also receive an AFMS first place plaque.

The results of the various regional Webmaster Contests will be announced at the annual meetings of the regional federations during their Bulletin Editors’ Breakfast. The results of the AFMS (and NFMS) Webmaster Contest will be announced at the NFMS/AFMS joint Show & Convention in Billings, Montana on August 2 during the Bulletin Editors’ Breakfast. Hope to see you all there!
If you have a question (or suggestion) about editing or writing or the bulletin contest or something related, send it to me by e-mail <LjgrAlg@aol.com> or at home address: 3513 E. 88th St, Tulsa, OK 74137. If I cannot find an answer to your question, we’ll publish the question and ask the readers for their answers.

LOOKING for ARTICLES?

Are you a new editor? Are you an experienced editor who wants to inject more life into your bulletin? See if some of these suggestions can help.

Join SCRIBE, the organization especially for rock club bulletin editors. (Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors) Membership is only $6 per year for an individual or $8 per year for a couple. Many clubs pay the membership for their editors, so ask for it!

Why SCRIBE?
• Membership includes a CD chock full of exchange bulletins, clip art, cartoons, etc.
• Receive 4 issues of the SCRIBE newsletter per year, each full of helpful tips for editors, as well as articles of interest to clubs.
• Directory of other editors & former editors, who are probably quite willing to let you “pick their brains” for suggestions.
• Annual meeting of editors at Quartzsite during the first weekend in January/February
• Provides a bulletin evaluation service to help you improve your bulletin — if you would like to have experienced editors/judges take a look at your bulletin and give non-judgmental suggestions before entering your regional competition

The SCRIBE web site is <http://scribesite.home.att.net/>. Check it out!

Explore the AFMS web site, <www.amanfed.org>. This is a great resource for articles to reprint and items that can give you enough information to write an article.

• The AFMS Newsletters are archived, and you can look at them for articles of interest and tips on editing a newsletter. The most recent newsletters are listed under 2009.
• AFMS Code of Ethics is available to be printed — a good idea, especially for new rockhounds
• Kids Corner has information about Future Rockhounds of America, the Merit Badge program, links to other sites for kids (including activities/articles & scouting), and a Mohs Scale of Hardness. A listing of hot links for rock club sites by state; these usually include the club web site & frequently their latest club bulletin — another source for articles to use in your bulletin
• Rockhounding information, including rockhound schools, collecting sites, museums, and links to discussion lists, USGS Topographical Maps, and the Bureau of Land Management

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MORE AFTER SHOW FIELD TRIPS in MONTANA by Doug True, Convention Chair

Last month we took you through five field trips scheduled after the AFMS/NFMS Convention and Show. We told you about a potluck and a swap after the Bear canyon trip.

Trip #1 - Tuesday August 4, 2009
Geological tour of the Pryor Mountains led by Dr. David Lopez. The trip will leave from the Holiday Inn Trade Center at 8 a.m. We will travel south to the town of Pryor in the Billings Reservation then travel west to Edgar then south to Bridge, east to Sage Creek area and into the Pryor Mountains. This trip will show and discuss the Geological structure, strata graphic and uplift of the area. Besides being great geography this is also a beautiful drive. Bring your camera, lunch and join us. You should return to Billings around 5 p.m.

Trip #2 - Tuesday August 4, 2009
Tour of the Stillwater mines smelter, worlds largest Platinum, Palladium mine. We are still working on details as we might get a mine tour instead!! Further updates later on this trip

Trip numbers 1, 4, 5 and 6 were described in the April AFMS Newsletter.

Trip #7 - Saturday August 8, 2009
Fossil hunt at Hysham, Montana. You will be collecting in the Cretaceous Bear Paw Formation, looking for ammonites, scaphites, baciultes, bivalves and snails and on occasions a bone or two will be found. The trip will leave from the Howery Island Wildlife Viewing Area at 10 a.m. To reach this location exit off I-94 (exit 67) go north ½ mile, left on Cutacross Rd go west 2.1 miles, turn left onto Old Highway 10 drive 3.9 miles turn right at Wildlife Viewing Area, Howery Island. This is the location where the potluck and swap will be after the field trip.

Travel with History By: Larry Field
For those who attend the Hysham area functions, western history abounds on the drive from Billings to Hysham. If attending the field trips, you can view as you travel. As you exit the east side of Billings you will view the eastern extreme of the “Rimrocks.” The east end of this cliff, to the north of Billings, includes Coulson’s cemetery, now named “Boot Hill” the grave site of early trapper, guide, explorer and scout, Yellowstone Kelly, and the Black Otter Hill, named after the famous Crow Chief.
The east end of the Rimrocks to the south feature Coulson, the most upstream seaport on the Mississippi River system (paddle boats), the site of Coulson, and Sacrifice Cliff. As you drive the river valley east of Billings, you are driving through the “Serengeti of the West”, where huge herds of grazing animals, bison, bighorn sheep, deer, elk and pronghorn, made so much noise those early travelers couldn’t sleep at night. Next you will pass the site of “Huntley”. This was the hunting ground of President T. Roosevelt. He would take huge pack trains from Medora, ND, to his favorite hunting spot. Finally and most famous, you will see Pompey’s Pillar to your north about 30
Henry Beck has been a Pasadena Lapidary Society member from the early days of the club's existence and has served in many capacities. Henry was one of the original group of members who worked very closely with the Boy Scouts of America and helped the young men earn their various badges in rockhounding. He has been closely involved in other areas of the club's functions. He served many years as Field Trip or co-leader on the monthly rockhounding trips.

Henry's name has been synonymous with the club's annual show, serving for many years as responsible for set-up, electrical connections, tear-down and close down. He has been an avid display member, proudly exhibiting the many faceted gemstones produced on his faceting machine and willingly embraced the teaching of those individuals who expressed an interest in faceting or other gemstone crafts. Pasadena Lapidary Society Salutes you, Henry Beck!

Napa Valley Rock & Gem Club recognizes Jerry Whitaker (39 year member) as our Rockhound of the Year. Jerry generously shares his mining, lapidary and jewelry skills with members new and long-term. He also speaks at other clubs. He is a wealth of wondrous stories about dredging for gold and being present for the yellow opal discovery. As well as the famous digging stories about dredging for gold and being present for the yellow opal discovery. As well as the famous digging stories about dredging for gold and being present for the yellow opal discovery.

The Long Beach Mineral and Gem Society nominates William Hayes as our Rockhound of the Year. Sixty-eight-year-old William Hayes is, hands down, the number-one go-to guy at the Long Beach Mineral and Gem Society workshops. His exuberant humor and enthusiasm, coupled with an extensive knowledge in the lapidary arts and techniques, earns Bill top honors as our LBMGS Rockhound of the Year. Not only the single-most knowledgeable stone worker in our organization, he also qualifies, most would agree, as the club's gifted guru. His thorough, extensive lapidary talents, developed over a span of years beginning in the 1960s, is graciously passed on to anyone who indicates even the hint of an interest. One is hard-pressed to find anyone in LBMGS who has not acquired skills under Bill's tutelage, or who is better loved.

The Everett Rock and Gem Club wishes to recognize Gary Buhr as its Rockhound of the Year. Gary joined the Everett Rock and Gem Club in March, 1998 became Asst. Junior Chair in June. Shortly thereafter, he became a member of the Board of Directors and became Juniors Chair in 2000. By 2002 he also became the NFMFS Juniors Chair.

Gary leads our Everett Rookie Rockhounds with enthusiasm. He has been a positive role model for the youth in our club and our junior membership has grown. Gary always makes the meetings, activities and field trips fun! Our junior members have learned a lot from him, and are inspired to work right alongside him for the entire weekend of the annual show, as well as helping at the annual Northwest Federation shows. Gary has the interest of the hobby at heart and works with the juniors to foster a lifelong interest in all aspects of being a rockhound.

The Bozeman Gem & Mineral Club of Montana nominates their 2009 Rockhound(s) of The Year--Richard and Irene Wendel, who have provided leadership and hard work since they joined the club in 1997. Dick and Irene have displayed at all shows, provided slide programs, represented the club at the NFMS level and Montana Council level, and have been active in providing tumbled rocks and grab bags for children. They have been valuable leaders for the club--Dick serving as President and Bulletin Editor, and Irene handles the stamps for the club.

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You or your club can easily recognize someone in your club who makes a difference by sending a paragraph extolling their virtues (50 - 75 words) to your regional ACROY chair. If your federation has no chairperson, send your entries directly to the AFMS Chair, Loretta Ogden (information on page 7 of this issue).
Ed Note: Thanks to everyone who took the time to ask their legislators to vote against the Omnibus Lands Act which included the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act. Passed by the Senate, the bill was initially debated by the House, thanks in part to the hard work of one or two “pro-rockhound” congressmen and the numerous calls and letters from those of us who took the time and interest to make contact. Unfortunately, the bill was subsequently amended to yet another piece of legislation which passed both the Senate and House and signed by the President.

The following article (portions of which are below) was posted on the web group “LA-Rocks” and helps explain what the passage of the law means to rockhounds.

On March 25, 2009 the House of Representatives passed a Public Lands Bill that contained the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act (PRPA) by a vote of 285 – 140. The bill has been signed by the president and is now public law.

Although the information has always been readily available on the SVP website, we offer this reminder of what the PRPA actually does:

• The Paleontological Resources Preservation Act codifies the existing practice of requiring that vertebrate fossils and other rare and scientifically significant fossils be collected only by qualified researchers who obtain a permit.

• Permits must agree to deposit the fossils in public institutions, which will ensure their future availability to researchers and the public.

• The PRPA strengthens penalties and acts as a deterrent for illegal collecting activity.

• The PRPA greatly benefits amateur paleontologists. For instance, the BLM and Forest Service have been allowing casual collecting of common plant and invertebrate fossils for many years, but without specific statutory authority from Congress. This activity could have been taken away at any time. However, the PRPA ensures amateurs can continue to pursue their hobby on BLM and Forest Service lands. The Savings Provision specifies that, “nothing contained in the Act shall apply to, or require a permit for, casual collecting of a rock, mineral or invertebrate or plant fossil that is not protected under this Act.” Over the years there has been an abundance of misinformation regarding the PRPA.

Please note that the PRPA DOES NOT:

1. Affect Private lands or Indian lands in any way.
2. Prosecute anyone for misidentifying a fossil unless that misidentification is made in association with a knowing criminal violation of the PRPA.
3. Interfere with rock collecting.
4. Restrict access to those who do not have a Ph.D.
5. Interfere with mining on federal land.
6. Create restrictions for public lands access.

For most of us it is early spring and is a time when we may not be teaching or taking extensive field trips and it should be a very good time to take a critical look at our house and how safe it may be. We all know that many accidents happen in the home and a little planning might minimize the hazards of everyday living.

Studying our home will not prevent us from being stupid and doing stupid things. On my list of stupid things I include ignoring the obvious, failing to check smoke detectors and other systems, climbing on chairs and stools and failing to keep our steps, ramps, porches and walkways clear. To exit our back deck requires going down a ramp which is not a problem unless we have snow, or ice or rain. When these conditions are present, it can really get exciting. We must also remember that we have an obligation to any visitors who may not react to cats or dogs.

That everyone does not love dogs. There are those who had a bad experience in their past or have an allergic reaction rather than holding the hand rail when she “lost it” in grand fashion and hit flat on her somewhat attractive derriere’. The result was a long, wide, black streak on her white stylish slacks and a look of shock on her face. We never saw the total result but her husband reported that the bruise was ‘impressive’. Unfortunately as the property owner, we are liable, but nothing came of it.

Routine maintenance of your home covers many things and you may be willing to tolerate conditions that visitors may not. Ask yourself such questions as: how is your lighting? Do you have anyicky furniture? Do you have any slick floors or showers or tubs? Do you have any scatter rugs or power cords in walkways?

Are your medications all up to date and is your make-up old enough to grow bacteria? What is hiding in your pantry or under sinks and lavatories?

When others approach your home is it a welcome sight and is your drive user-friendly? We tell all new visitors that our drive is all gravel and can be a challenge after rain or snow. The drive is steep and very curvy and, at times, requires four-wheel drive. We have even gone down the hill and picked up guests and ferried them up.

The last category to consider is whether or not you have pets. Our life is enhanced by our Jack Russell Terrier (Terrier) which loves everybody, but we know that everyone does not love dogs. There are those who had a bad experience in their past or have an allergic reaction to cats or dogs.

For the benefit of your family and all who may visit, study your house and look for any and all potential problems.

Time to Check Your House

Regional Federation Conventions

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AFMS Newsletter - May, 2009
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
2009 AFMS / NFMS SHOW & CONVENTION
BILLINGS, MT - JULY 28 – AUGUST 2, 2009

Tuesday, July 28:
1 PM - Rules & Awards Meeting - Cottonwood Rm.

Wednesday, July 29:
8AM-4PM - AFMS Annual Meeting - Cottonwood Rm.
Scholarship Meeting immediately following the AFMS Meeting

Thursday, July 30:
10AM Show opens: Ribbon cutting
1-1:30 PM- Billings & Montana: Slides, Q & A. Speaker: Larry G. Field
2-3 PM- NASA and the Moon Rock, Speaker: William Heierman
3:30-4:15 PM - Wyoming Jade/Edwards Black, Speaker: Lynn Edwards

Friday, July 31:
10-10:30 AM - Billings & Montana: Slides, Q & A. Speaker: Larry G. Field - Cottonwood
11-12AM - Corundum, Rubies & Sapphires, Speaker: William Heierman - Cottonwood
2-3 PM – American Land Access Association Meeting
4 PM – NFMS Meeting Registration - Ballroom (Missouri Rm.)
5 PM – NFMS Annual Meeting. Missouri Rm. (Ballroom)
7:30 PM – AFMS Cracker Barrel - Missouri Rm. (Ballroom)

Saturday, August 1:
Noon-1 PM - AFMS/NFMS Past President & Committee Chair Luncheon
1 PM - AFMS Faceted Stone Auction
6-7 PM - Social Hour / no host Bar
7 PM - AFMS/NFMS- Awards Banquet

Sunday, August 2:
8AM-10 AM - AFMS/NFMS Breakfast With The Editors
10 AM - Noon, All editors Symposium
1 PM – NFMS Live Rock Auction
5 PM. Show Closed/ Tear down

lodging/camping information
2009 AFMS / NFMS SHOW & CONVENTION
Motels:
We have reserved a block of rooms for the show at the Holiday Inn Grand Montana. Please make your reservations early. (30 days prior to the show we will release any rooms not already filled). This motel fills up fast so reserve early. Those reserving late, or after our reserved block is filled, will not be able to get the negotiated group room rate of $99 per night plus tax

When you call to make reservations please tell them you are with the Gem & Mineral Show. Call Toll Free 1-877-55GRAND or direct 406-248-7701.

Other area motels:
Motel 6:  5400 Midland Rd. $69 + tax
406-252-0093

Billings Hotel: 1223 Mullinex Ln. $100 + tax
406-248-7151

Kelly Inn:  5425 Midland Rd. $79.93
tax included. 406-252-2700

Red Roof Inn:  5553 Midland Rd. $79.95 + tax
406-248-7551

Camping:
At this writing, all 20 of the on-site spaces with electric hookups have been filled.
There are still numerous dry camping spots available. Rates are $10 per night (5 nights for $40).

For those wishing to find a campground with full hookups, there are two available within four (4) miles of the Convention Center via freeway:
Yellowstone River Campgrounds
406-259-0878

KOA Kampground
406-252-3104

If you wish to reserve a dry camping spot, cut and send the information requested below, along
with your check

Name:_______________________________
Address:______________________________
City:________________________________
State:_________Zip:_____________________
Phone #_______________________________
E-mail:________________________________
(used for confirmation only)

# of nights:_____________x $___________
amount enclosed:  $_________________

Send to:
Debbie MacDowall
6125 Link Circle
Shepherd, Montana 59079

You will be notified if all spaces are full

banquet menu
the grand montana buffet

Chicken Saltimboca
Pepper Thyme-Rubbed Prime Rib of Beef
Choice of Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes
or loaded Baked Potato Masher
Steamed Garden Vegetables
Tossed Garden Salad with Choice of Dressings
Fresh Vegetable Tray
Marinated Mushroom Salad
Fresh Baked Rolls with Butter
Cheesecake
Herbal Teas and Coffee

Past President Luncheon Menu
The Grand Montana Delicatessen

Deli Turkey, Roast Beef, Honey Cured Ham
Capicola and Salami
Sliced Swiss and Cheddar Cheese
Lettuce, sliced Tomatoes, Pickles
Fresh Baked Kaiser and Hoagie Rolls
California Style Pasta Salad
Country Style Mustard Potato Salad
Southwest Slaw
Tossed Green Salad with Choice of Dressings

breakfast with the editors menu
farm fresh buffet

Hickory Wood Smoked Bacon and Maple Link Sausage
Blueberry Pancakes with Maple and Blueberry Syrup
Scrambled Eggs
Potatoes O’Brien
Seasonal Fruit
Assorted Nut Breads and Donuts

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# 2009 AFMS/NFMS SHOW and CONVENTION

July 30, 31, August 1, 2

## Pre-Registration Form

**SHOW TIMES:** Thursday-Saturday 10AM-6PM  
Sunday 10AM-5PM

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<th>Total</th>
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<td>4 Day Pass</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>7/28/09</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
<td>Rules &amp; Awards Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>7/29/09</td>
<td>8AM-4PM</td>
<td>AFMS Annual Meeting</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>7/29/09</td>
<td>4PM-6PM</td>
<td>AFMS Scholarship Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>7/30/09</td>
<td>10AM-</td>
<td>Show opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>7/31/09</td>
<td>4 PM</td>
<td>NFMS Meeting Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>7/31/09</td>
<td>5 PM</td>
<td>NFMS Annual Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>7/31/09</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>AFMS Cracker Barrel</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>8/01/09</td>
<td>Noon-1PM</td>
<td>AFMS/NFMS Past Presidents &amp; Committee Chair Luncheon</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>8/01/09</td>
<td>6-7 PM</td>
<td>Social Hour</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>8/01/09</td>
<td>7PM</td>
<td>AFMS/NFMS Awards Banquet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>8/02/09</td>
<td>8-10 AM</td>
<td>AFMS/NFMS All Editor’s Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>8/02/09</td>
<td>10-Noon</td>
<td>All Editor Symposium</td>
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Please note: All federation officers, judges and exhibitors get into the show free

| Total Amount Due | $ |
| Total Enclosed   | $ |

Make all checks Payable to: 2009 AFMS/NFMS Show Committee

Return this registration form, with check or money order to:  
Debbie MacDowall  
6125 Link Circle  
Shepherd, Montana 59079

One Registration per person please

DEADLINE for Pre-Registration is: JULY 10 2009

E-Mail ___________________________  
email for confirmation only
Competitive Entry Form

NFMS/AFMS Convention - July 30 – August 2, 2009

Entry Deadline - July 5, 2009

All entries may be set up beginning Wednesday, July 29, 2009 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. or Thursday, July 30 between 6 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. All entries must be ready for judging by 8:30 a.m. No entry may be removed prior to the close of the show on Sunday, August 2, 2009. All exhibits must be removed by 8 p.m. on Sunday.

Security will be furnished. Two guest passes per exhibitor will be provided.

Cases will be assigned space on tables approximately 40 inches high. Exhibits are limited to 150 watts of power per case, and exhibitor must supply a 3-prong extension cord to reach the power supply under the tables (normally 10 feet).

Please complete all information on the entry form and the certification form and mail or e-mail to the competitive exhibit registration chairman for acceptance and acknowledgement. Mail to: Dee Holland, PO Box 23; Tendoy, ID 83468 or beauholland@centurytel.net.

You must fill out a separate application for each entry. Entry deadline is July 5, 2009.

Refer to the AFMS Rules Updated to January 2009 for competition. Contact your regional Supplies Chair for updated rules or they may be downloaded via the AFMS website <www.amfed.org>.

If you are uncertain as to the correct class or group you should enter or for clarification of the rules, contact Dee Holland (see above).

Liability: It is mutually agreed that the Northwest and American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Billings Gem & Mineral Society shall not be liable to any Exhibitor in whole or part. This includes the property of the exhibitor or the injury to their person resulting from any cause. Submitting this signed application for entry constitutes acceptance of these rules and regulations.

NFMS/AFMS Competition Entry Form (AFMS Rules)

Name:__________________________
Address:________________________
Phone:_________________________E-mail:________________________
Society:________________________
This display is to be entered in (check one) ________NFMS or ________AFMS Direct
Exhibitor Group: Master_____ Advanced_____ Novice_____ Junior_____
Society_____ Junior Society_____
Exhibit Division:_________ Exhibitor Class:__________
If Junior, give birthdate:___________________
If Direct Entry, indicate when and where eligibility was earned________________________________
Do you own your own case? __________ Size:  Width_______ Height:_______ Depth_______
Do you want to borrow a case? __________ Cases will be available on a limited basis.
Basic size: 4' x 2' x 2'. Liners or risers are not available.

Certification for Exhibitors
I hereby certify that all material in competition by me is my own property, or if Society, all material belongs to members of the society. All work except minor findings or where otherwise allowed by the rules was completed by me. I have read the current rules and agree to abide by them.

Exhibitor’s Signature________________________
Print Name:________________________________
Exhibitor’s Society________________________
I certify, as an officer of the above named Society, that the exhibitor is a member in good standing of that society, and to the best of my knowledge, is eligible to exhibit in the stated classification according to the rules.

Signature:________________________________
If sent via e-mail, include the officer’s e-mail:________________________________
Title:__________________________________ Date:____________________

Both pages must be returned. Be sure and make a copy for your records.

For Non-Competitive Entry Forms visit the AFMS website <www.amfed.org>
2009 AFMS Committees

Here is the listing of the people who have agreed to serve as Committee Chairs for 2008-09. Please feel free to contact these people if you need information, have questions or would like to share ideas with them.

All American Club
John Washburn
<jrwashburn2@msn.com>

AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year
Loretta Ogden
<donogden@aol.com>

AFMS Newsletter
Carolyn Weinberger
P.O. Box 302, Glyndon, MD 21071-0302
410-833-7926
<editor@amfed.org>

Boundaries
John Wright
<osjbw@datasync.com>

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

Bulletin Editors Advisory
Linda Jaeger
<ljgralg@aol.com>

Bylaws Revisory
Steve Weinberger
P.O. Box 302, Glyndon, MD 21071-0302
410-833-7926
<central_office@amfed.org>

Central Office Administrator
Steve Weinberger
<central_office@amfed.org>

Commemorative Stamps
Wendell Mohr
<wmohr@erols.com>

Conservation and Legislation
John Wright
<osjbw@datasync.com>

Endowment Fund
Dee Holland
<beauholland@centurytel.net>

Financial Investment
Lauren Williams
<silhaaruir@msn.com>

Historian
Shirley Leeson
<shirleylesson@cox.net>

International Relations
Bob Jones
<jonesb52@gmail.com>

Judges Training Seminar
Dee Holland
<beauholland@centurytel.net>

Junior Programs
Jim Brace-Thompson
<braceth@roadrunner.com>

Long Range Planning
Shirley Leeson
<shirleylesson@cox.net>

Name Badges
Frank Mullaney
<rockyfiv@aol.com>

Nominating
Shirley Leeson
<shirleylesson@cox.net>

Parliamentarian
Dee Holland
<beauholland@centurytel.net>

Past President’s Advisory
Shirley Leeson
<shirleylesson@cox.net>

Photography
Steve Weinberger
<central_office@amfed.org>

Program Competition
Marge Collins
<margaret@qrm.net>

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

Historian
Shirley Leeson
<shirleylesson@cox.net>

Public Relations
Fran Sick
<ednfran@epix.net>

Safety
Ted Rieth
<tjrieth@epix.net>

Show Consultant
Bob Livingston
<gemguy@verizon.net>

Uniform Rules
Barbara Jacobsen
<barbjae@embarqmail.com>

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

Ways and Means
Marve Starbuck
<greenstone@iserv.net>

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

Ad Hoc Webmaster Contest
Phyllis George
<pgeorge4@comcast.net>

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

Ad Hoc Inter-Regional Field Trip
Dick Pankey
<dickpankey@juno.com>

AFMS Scholarship Foundation
Dee Holland, President
(see Endowment Fund)
Joy Bourne, Vice President
Ruth Bailey, Secretary
Arlene Burkhalter, Treasurer
2008 and early 2009 has not been good to rockhounds and users of the public lands. The Omnibus Land Management Act of 2009 is one of the worst assaults on our right to access and use our public lands in recent memory. One hundred and fifty plus bills combined into one piece of onerous legislation. All of our letters, phone calls and e-mails were important, but unfortunately our efforts fell a bit short. In the future, we need to be ready and vigilant; we haven't seen the last of this type legislation. We need to prepare now to participate in the legislative process, not just react to it.

2008 was not a good year for ALAA, also. We did not have an editor for our newsletter and were not able to communicate with the membership. Less than half our members renewed their membership. Our annual meeting at the AFMS/SCFS in Houston was canceled because of Hurricane Ike. But the good news is that we now have an editor and new webmaster for the ALAA web site. Jay Valle from Hacienda Heights, CA is our editor and John and Suzy Martin from Lancaster, CA are our new web masters.

So what lies ahead for ALAA? Our purpose and need is the same: promoting and ensuring the right of the amateur hobby collecting, recreational prospecting and mining, and the use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes; and to carry the voice of all amateur collectors and hobbyists to our elected officials, government regulators and public land managers. But we need to reestablish our voice. We need to inform and reinvigorate the people we serve.

At this point in time, as I see it, our biggest challenge is to communicate the need for and the worth of ALAA to the people we were formed to serve — the rockhounds, the users of our public lands, the societies and members of the AFMS and Regional Federations. And to meet this challenge and fulfill the purpose of ALAA we need their support. To be an effective voice we need “mass”, i.e. members. To be effective our “mass”, our members, must participate and respond.

My first focus as president is membership. The AFMS has 633 societies with over 49,000 individual members. Currently ALAA has 76 individual members and 21 society members. Our growth potential, our membership potential, our financial support potential is GREAT. The potential of our Voice is great. We represent and advocate for over 49,000 AFMS members plus their families. We are signifi-cant. However, to represent them adequately we need their support. And how do we calculate/estimate the number of unaffiliated rockhounds. And how do we calculate/estimate the number of kids and families, teachers, and people that just like to pick up “pretty rocks” or participate in some other form of recreation on our public lands. We represent and advocate for these people, too.

At the annual SFMS meeting in Nashville, TN, John Wright spoke about ALAA and membership for societies. He told them “that I planned to get all four clubs in Mississippi to join ALAA and challenged the other states to match us. I don’t know if it will work, but maybe we will get some to join.” Let’s extend that challenge, that objective, to all Federations, to all states.

One way to accomplish this goal is to hold ALAA meetings at each regional federation shows and meetings. The purpose of these meetings would be to inform about and promote ALAA, promote membership and support of ALAA, as well as, in-form about pending legislation and regulations. I will hold the first of these meetings at the CFMS Show in April 2009 in Santa Clara, CA. I request that the ALAA directors that are members of and represent a regional federation take on the task of hosting one of the regional ALAA meetings. As our membership increases there will be more help to hold these meetings. This will be a discussion item at our annual meeting in Billings. I will also report on the CFMS ALAA meeting in the June issue of our newsletter.

I am personally inviting every society, in every Federation to join The American Land Access Association. The yearly dues for a society are only $50.00. I invite you to not only join but to get involved and participate in the process to keep our public lands open to the public. I am also inviting all individuals who believe and support the purpose and objectives of ALAA to join as an individual member and become involved and active. Individual membership is $25.00 per year. For more information about ALAA go to our web site <www.amlands.org>.

As ALAA grows, our impact will grow. We need to justify our existence and prove our worth continually. We can’t rely on past successes for future justification. We need the financial support and participation of all of you that are concerned and interested.