Having Fun: Junior Activities

by Jim Brace-Thompson, Junior Activities Chair

Host an “Amazing Mineral Magic Show”

At the beginning of the year, I added five new badges to our AFMS/FRA Badge Program, and one has proven instantaneously popular beyond what I’d imagined: Special Effects. We’ve already awarded nearly 40 of these badges, which is three times as many as any of the other new units introduced this year.

The Special Effects unit guides kids in exploring such interesting mineralogical phenomena as magnetism, double refraction, fluorescence, triboluminescence, and more. A suggested activity is having your juniors host an “Amazing Mineral Magic Show” to demonstrate these phenomena to the rest of the club. Several clubs have already done just this, and they report that the adults in the room were just as amazed as the kids who were demonstrating the effects.

The Coquina Kids of the Tomoka Gem & Mineral Society in Florida, the Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Club’s Rock Retriever’s, and the Jr. Geologists of the Flatirons Mineral Club in Colorado have all written to me of the success of this particular unit. Dennis Gertenbach, leader of the FMC Jr. Geologists, has even suggested new rocks to add to the Amazing Mineral Magic Show, including float pyrite and rocks that “sing” when put in water. I hope to incorporate his suggestions into future revisions to the Badge Manual, and I encourage others to send in suggestions of rocks with special effects. (Email me at jbraceth@roadrunner.com.)

It sounds like this particular unit, with its hands-on activities, has gone over well, so I encourage your society to give it a try because it sounds like the adults, just as much as the kids, found it not only eye-opening, but also fun!

Midwest Federation Youth Poster Contest: Fossils of the World

For the past few years, the Summit Lapidary Club of Ohio has been sponsoring a poster contest for kids in conjunction with their annual show and the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies convention. The contest is open to any kids within an AFMS-affiliated club, especially those who already may be involved in the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America program. David Rich has emailed to let me know the tradition continues, and this year, the contest is focused around a theme of “Fossils of the World.” Kids wishing to enter the contest should prepare a poster illustrating one or more fossils that interest them, from anywhere in the world.

The contest is open to kids in grades 1 through 8. Each grade level will have a winner. Ribbons will be awarded for 1st through 4th place, and 1st place winners will also receive a prize. Rules are as follows:

• all entries must be presented on 12 x 18-inch paper;
• artwork can be pen, ink, crayons, magic marker, paint, or any other artist’s medium, but no three-dimensional posters accepted;
• include name, address, age and school grade of participant on back of entry;
• and
• all entries become the property of Summit Lapidary Club and the Midwest Federation.

Points will be awarded as follows: Originality & Art Work—30 points; Design—25 points; Title—25 points; Listing of Fossils and Reason You Chose Them—20 points. Entries must be postmarked by March 2, 2013, and should be mailed to: Jennifer Fike, P.O. Box 26276, Akron, Ohio 44319. Winners to be announced April 6, 2013, at the MWF convention. Further contest info may be found at http://lapidaryclubofohio.org, and if you have questions, contact Poster Judge Jennifer Fike by email at: <SLC. youth.poster.contest@gmail.com>.
The Way I See It!

By Don Monroe, President

During the last several years I have written quite a few articles, some good and some bad. This has been a tough article to assemble and what you are getting is about the 3rd or 4th draft. Early attempts were too weak and did not deal with the major problems that many of us are facing.

First for the benefit of those of you that do not fully understand how our AFMS publication and communication material is put together. My deadline is the first of the month preceding publication. I certainly am not being critical, just stating how things work which is a system that I have worked under for several years. My reason for bringing this up at this time is to assure all of you that I know that the news I am bringing you is almost out of date but I still feel the need to tell you about it. Many of our members, our clubs and our federations at this moment are still reeling from the onslaught of Hurricane Sandy which is now known as Super Storm Sandy.

This is my guessestimate as to what the situation will be when you read this article in the A.F.M.S. Newsletter. Rescue efforts will be complete and we hope that all missing people have been found. Money will have been made available from various sources to provide everyone with a place to live.

We rockhounds will know the current situation of our comrades who live or lived on the East Coast, Northeast, Southeast, and Midwest. If things are anything like what they were after the Gulf Coast hurricanes of recent years, many of our people will have lost gem and mineral collections, reference books and the tools and equipment to continue the hobby. We also know that many if not most all of these losses will not be covered by any form of insurance.

The thrust of this message is that all of us should begin thinking now about how we can help our friends to “get back into the hobby”. I ask each of you to inventory what you have that could be of assistance to those who have lost so much. Ann and I will go through our shop and make a list of equipment and supplies that we can share. Will you do likewise? If the response is what I hope it will be, your leadership at all levels can start thinking about how we can distribute the material we identify. If Rockhounds don’t help fellow rockhounds, who will? Do you think we can expect assistance from any level of government or from BLM or any other organization?

Since this is the last AFMS Newsletter of the year, let me wish each of you a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah and a healthy, happy and safe 2013.

Don

AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year

Time is running out! December 31 is the deadline for me to receive your submission for your club’s Rockhound of the Year for 2012.

Each AFMS affiliated club is encouraged to send information to our publication about a member (or husband/wife team) that you would like to have recognized for their contributions to your club. In addition, each club may submit the name of one junior member per calendar year.

The process is easy. Write a brief paragraph (100 words or less), telling why your person or couple is important to your club. Include the name of the club and name of the person making the submission and send it to your regional federation ACROY chair who in turn will forward it to me for inclusion in a future AFMS Newsletter. Your submission should also appear in your own regional federation newsletter. What a wonderful way to say “thank you” to your special person, couple and or junior and what a wonderful way to share your good fortune with the rest of the Federations!

Here’s a submission from Eastern.

Eastern Federation
The Che-Hanna Rock & Minerals Club, Inc. of Sayer, PA is honored to nominate Frances Sick as Club Rockhound of the Year.

In the first year Fran joined our club, she was elected to the office of secretary, followed by years as president and treasurer of our club. Fran held all offices and other duties with extreme efficiency. No task is too much for her. Fran is also the past president of the Eastern Federation and now chair of the Eastern Foundation Fund. In addition, Fran is the Director of Wildacres. Fran’s love of Wildacres started many years ago, and she has become proficient in many lapidary and jewelry skills.

We feel Fran is very deserving of this honor.

submitted by Inga Wells, President

Endowment Fund Drawing News

by R.J. Harris, AFMS Chair

I would like to take a moment and thank Pam Hecht for the wonderful job she did as Endowment Fund Chair. Pam has left big shoes to fill. Frankly, I am starting from scratch.

I would like to begin with an appeal for donations. From specimens to incredible lapidary creations, we are used to seeing prized offerings in our drawing every year. I will also be reaching out to equipment manufacturers over the next few weeks to see if we can line up an exciting variety of goodies like Pam did this past year. Any contacts that you have to offer would also be appreciated.

We’ll continue to sell tickets as we’ve done in the past at $5 each or $20 with all proceeds going towards the principal of the AFMS Endowment Fund. Interest earned by the principal is used to fund programs that benefit you and your club members --- programs for your regional program library, and badges for junior rockhounds that are provided to your juniors at no charge to your club, to highlight just two.

Confirmed Regional Federation Chairs/ Salespersons as of November 5, 2012:

California Federation: Colleen McGann
PO Box 224; Santa Clara, CA 95052
<Colleen.mcgann@hds.com>

Eastern Federation: Carolyn Weinberger
PO Box 302; Glyndon, MD 21071-0302
<editor@amfed.org>

Northwest Federation: Chris Blickfeldt
236 Tollgate Rd; Boise, ID 82716
<grumpies@g.com>

Rocky Mountain Federation: Richard Jaeger
3515 # 88th St; Tulsa, OK 74137-2602
<RjgrScial@aol.com>

I’ve still not confirmed sellers for the Midwest, South Central or Southeast Federations. If you’re interested in volunteering, please contact me.

In the February newsletter I will show off some of the items up for grabs and provide a complete list of the confirmed sellers in each region. Enjoy your holiday season and think of the AFMS for a nice donation to our drawing, September will be here before you know it.

BLM, Quartzsite and You

by Dick Pankey

The American Lands Access Association meeting was such a success last January that the third annual meeting is scheduled for Quartzsite, Arizona in January 2013. An open meeting of the American Lands Access Association is planned for Friday evening, January 25th, at 6:30 PM, at the Quartzsite Alliance Church, 720 Desert Vista on the north side of Quartzsite.

Attend this meeting to learn about ALAA and how you can be involved in saving access to our public lands. We will have an open forum on pending legislation and regulations, and what is happening with the BLM and USFS. Bring your questions and ideas.

This meeting should be of interest to all rockhounds and to anyone who recreates on and uses public lands. The purpose of this meeting is for outreach to rockhounds and the public at Quartzsite, to let them know about ALAA and what we do. It is to let rockhounds and the public know the legislative and regulatory challenges and issues facing all of us and how they can and should be involved.

This is a special invitation to all rockhounds and users of our public lands to attend this important meeting. If you can attend, please do so, and show how many rockhounds care.

Shirley Leeson, the new president of ALAA has announced the first ANNUAL Quartzsite area CLEAN-UP. This clean up will be conducted on BLM land somewhere around Quartzsite. All participants will receive a certification of participation. Be part of the solution instead of the problem. More details will be on the ALAA web site and at the ALAA Meeting. Be sure to check the December issue of the ALAA Newsletter and the ALAA web site for details about the meeting and speakers.
FINISH THE YEAR WITH A BANG – AND MAKE IT COUNT!

by Regina Kaptta, All American Chair

Make the All American Yearbook Entry a tool that works for your club!

Hello to everyone. I’m the new Chair for the All American Club Award program and, as a late-bloomer to the rockhounding hobby, I come from a background of graphic arts, marketing and photography. I’m currently the Secretary and Newsletter Editor for the Central Illinois Gem & Mineral Club, and new Public Image Chair for the Midwest Federation.

As a judge for the AFMS All American Club contest for several years, I’ve had the opportunity to view Yearbook entries up close, and see the tremendous value a Yearbook can be as a club marketing tool – to promote the club, inform the general public, serve as a historical document, and provide an opportunity to engage members all year.

The All American Club Award is given to the club Yearbook that reflects a club’s activities, not only within the local community, but shows the role of the club in the larger picture – credit is given for participation at the regional and national levels as well. Attendance at regional and national shows, participation at meetings, holding officer positions on various committees, writing to state representatives, involvement in ALAA; all the pieces create an active club that contributes to our hobby as a whole. The AACOA award is recognition of that accomplishment, with bronze, silver and gold levels and an overall 1st place gold award.

As we move toward the final month of the 2012, make this an opportunity to review what your club has accomplished this past year, from a show or special event to workshops to field trips, all things that bring club members together and help foster interest in our rock hounding hobby. The winter meetings are a perfect time to informally interview members about their participation, to pull together all the pieces of information and documentation needed to create an outstanding All American Club entry for the year 2012, especially before everyone takes time off for the holidays. Use this time to jog memories about show activities, participation in community events and civic roles that might contribute to the club yearbook. Canvas members for any missing documentation, letters, flyers or other materials, that could fill in some gaps that just might make the difference between a good club and a great Club Yearbook entry.

The annual Yearbook can help highlight and recognize members that have actively participated throughout the year and help give credit where credit is due. The more members contribute to it, the more completely it can serve as an historical document for the club as well as an excellent marketing tool to be shown to prospective members. Yes, the Yearbook does require some extra effort by club members, but it can be a lot of fun for a team, especially if you borrow some shortcuts that have been developed by the scrapbooking hobbyists. Pages, backgrounds, and other premade items can make putting the book together fast and easy.

To help create your club’s Yearbook entry, take advantage of the excellent guide that is on the AFMS web site written by John Washburn. “An All American Club Yearbook: A Guide for Preparation.” This gives a good explanation of each section, and what judges look for in rating the entries. It also highlights areas that are usually the weakest for many clubs and offers suggestions to improve those areas, as well as hints and tips for organizing the book. Using these tips can help create a Yearbook that will be an excellent marketing tool for your club, holding a special place at the membership table during your show.

The deadline for entry in the AFMS contest is April 15, 2013. Check with your regional chairs for their deadline. A copy of the Entry Form for year 2012 is on the AFMS web site and also in this newsletter.

Quick Tips for Editors

by Linda Jaeger

If you have a question (or suggestion) about editing or writing or the bulletin contest or something related, send it to me by email: <LjgrAlg@aol.com> or at home address: 3515 E. 88th Pl., Tulsa, OK 74137. If I cannot find an answer to your question, we’ll publish the question and ask the readers for their answers.

A “Sleep Number” Bulletin?

NO, I don’t mean are you putting your readers to sleep! We see commercials for mattresses that have dual controls to make them firmer or softer, depending on what fits your body. These mattresses are designed to fit both of the people using the mattress.

So, does your bulletin F’IT your club members? Take a look at all the different activities where your club members participate. Is your bulletin providing something for everyone?

If you have groups within your club that meet in addition to the general club meeting, you can:
- announce those meetings and their programs/events in the bulletin
- ask a member of that group to write an article pertinent to their group interest
- use articles from exchange bulletins or online sources that would be of interest to each of your club groups
- browse the Internet for web sites of interest
- highlight a different group each month, especially if your club bulletin is small

If your club has field trips, you can (should) announce these in your bulletin. Announcements should include:
- what materials expect to be found
- date, time, meeting place
- required equipment, clothing to wear
- food/water information
- whether waivers need to be signed
- a contact person for Q & A
- who is leading the trip
- how long the trip is expected to last

If your club has a workshop, you can:
- list dates and times it is open
- highlight someone and/or something they have created
- announce classes offered in your workshop with all the appropriate information
- ask for an article about equipment or technique from a workshop user

If your club has kids as members, you can:
- announce their meeting/dates/times if they meet separately from the general meeting
- use materials from the AFMS program, Future Rockhounds of America (check the AFMS web site, <www.amfed.org>)
- read or have someone else read a kid’s book about some phase of earth science and write a book review on it
- ask the kids to write on a specific topic related to earth science and publish their articles (short articles or poems; even artwork)

If your club offers short-term classes, such as silversmithing, making cabs, minerals, fossils, etc., you can:
- announce the classes with dates, times, places, instructors, contact information
- ask the instructor to write a short article on what will be taught, maybe with a week-by-week synopsis
- after the class is over, ask a class member to write about their favorite part of the class or about something they learned that really excited their interest

If your club performs services for the public such as giving programs for schools, participating in a state fair, working at a swap, etc., you can:
- announce the event
- use the bulletin to help recruit members to help
- afterwards, ask a participant for an article about what was accomplished or what was the funniest thing that happened, etc.

If your club includes members who are interested in all phases of geology and lapidary, try to include articles that address each area. We want members to read our bulletins, and they will read what is of interest to them. It’s just like going shopping. We try things on (sometimes mattresses!), but we only buy what FITs!

(Clip art above from Discovery Channel School Image Gallery, ©2003. Permission to use for educational, not for sale publications granted.)
A.L.A.A. is Cleaning Up
by Dick Pankey, President, A.L.A.A.

For the last 4 years or so I have written articles for the AFMS Newsletter promoting the American Lands Access Association, articles about the challenges to access and use of public lands from legislation and regulations, and articles to encourage you to be involved and participate in our current and future access and use of our public lands. In January I will be stepping down as President of A.L.A.A. and Shirley Leeson will take on the leadership position. But I want to leave you with few last thoughts and ideas, and some encouragement.

At Quartzsite again this year A.L.A.A. will hold an open meeting with some planned speakers from the local BLM office with updates on the La Posa TMP that was introduced last January. Shirley is also planning a clean-up of some BLM land around Quartzsite for Sunday, January 27. Clean-ups are a simple, worthwhile service project that benefits the environment, the aesthetics of our public lands, helps out the BLM and gives us a positive image to others to list a few.

There are two ways to conduct a clean-up and a lot of variations in between. The simplest is when you are out on a collecting trip just pick up any trash, cans, bottles that you see and pack them out when you leave. Always try to leave the site cleaner than when you got there. Just practice good stewardship of our land. A second way is an "organized" clean-up: planned, conducted by a group, coordinated with BLM, FS or some other agency, with a specific goal, could be advertised, often at least a several hour event, and usually ends with a great sense of accomplishment. An "organized" clean-up does not have to be complicated; at your next field trip just announce that "we will be cleaning up this site, so collect some trash as you collect the rocks." At the end of your trip pack out the trash and dispose of it in a good and proper manner.

Clean-ups and other such service projects are a great way to build a relationship with the land managers and private land owner, it makes us look good to the general public (an image builder), and will give all of us a well deserved sense of pride.

If you will be in Quartzsite in late January join us at the A.L.A.A. meeting and the clean-up. If you can’t join us for the Quartzsite clean-up why not conduct and clean-up at a collecting, camping or recreation site in your home area. Get involved. Here is an easy way to participate for the future of access and rockhounding.

continued on page 6
SECTION 3 - PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLICITY (15 POINTS 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_____ (*Include a separate list of members serving.)
AFMS: Yes_____ No_____ (*Include a separate list of members serving.)
Members attended a Federation convention or show:
Regional Federation: Yes_____ No_____ Number Attending_____
AFMS: Yes_____ No_____ Number Attending_____
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_____
Members gave programs for other clubs: Yes_____ No_____
*Include a separate list of programs.
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 bulletins 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, copies of certificates, reports printed in club newsletter, thank-you notes, etc.

Regional Federation Conventions

Please be certain to inform me of your upcoming regional federation convention so that we can avoid 
conflicting events that make it difficult for your AFMS President and competitive exhibit judges to make a 
choice as to which of the conventions

<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>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>May 31-June 2 Ventura, CA</td>
<td>June 1-2 Plainview, NY</td>
<td>April 6 - 7 Lincoln, NE</td>
<td>August 16-18 Butte, MT</td>
<td>May 17-19 Sandy, Ut</td>
<td>August 17-18 Bossier City, LA</td>
<td>AFMS Sept. 20-22 Jacksonville, FL</td>
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<td>AFMS</td>
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<td>Austin, TX</td>
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AFMS Committees: 2012 – 2013

Here is the listing of the people who have agreed to serve as Committee Chairs for 2012-13. Please feel free to contact these people if you need information, have questions or would like to share ideas with them.

All American Club
Regina Kaptan
<cgmc at comcast.net>

AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year
Evelyn Cataldo
<cataldoevelyn at yahoo.com>

AFMS Newsletter
Carolyn Weinberger
<editor at amfed.org>

Boundaries
Marion Roberts
<myroberts at bigvalley.net>

Bulletin Editor Hall of Fame
Carolyn Weinberger
<editor at amfed.org>

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

Bylaws Revisory
Steve Weinberger
<central_office at amfed.org>

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

Commemorative Stamps
Wendell Mohr
<wmohr at erols.com>

Conservation and Legislation
John Martin
<afms-conservation at antelecom.net>

Endowment Fund
RJ Harris
<rooqfreq at rjharris.com>

Financial Investment
Lauren Williams
<slharuir at msn.com>

Historian
Shirley Leeson
<shirleyleeson at cox.net>

International Relations
Bob Jones
<jonesb52 at gmail.com>

Inter-Regional Field Trip
Doug True
<dtruefoils12 at yahoo.com>

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

Junior Programs
Jim Brace-Thompson
<jbraceth at roadrunner.com>

Long Range Planning
Lauren Williams
<slharuir at msn.com>

Name Badges
Frank Mullaney
<rockyfiv at aol.com>

Nominating
Lauren Williams
<slharuir at msn.com>

Parliamentarian
Dee Holland
<beauholland at centurytel.net>

Past President’s Advisory
Lauren Williams
<slharuir at msn.com>

Photography
Steve Weinberger
<central_office at afmed.org>

Program Competition
Marge Collins
<margaret at qtn.net>

Publications
Ron Carman
<rcarman at centurytel.net>

Safety
Owen Martin
<owenmartin at yahoo.com>

Show Consultant
Bob Livingston
<gemguy at verizon.net>

Uniform Rules
Jim Robinson
<jimrobinson at att.net>

URC Eligibility Files
Annie Cook
<secretary at amfed.org>

Ways and Means
Lauren Williams
<slharuir at msn.com>

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

Web Site Contest
Dan Imel
<lapidry at aol.com>

AFMS Scholarship Foundation
Dee Holland, President
(see Judges Training)
Lauren Williams, Vice President
Ruth Bailey, Secretary
Jon Spunaugle, Treasurer
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 rockhound 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.

ATTENTION...PANARAMA GEM & MINERAL CLUB

from Pam Hecht

If you’re a member of the Panarama Gem & Mineral Club of Colville, WA, I have an AFMS Endowment Drawing WINNING prize item for your club. The package, mailed out in early August, has been returned to me for “no mail receptacle” at the address on the winning ticket (640 Williams Lake Rd).

If you’re a member of the club, please contact Pam Hecht at <steverox@pasty.net> with a correct mailing address so that your prize may be delivered to the club.