Hello folks. My inspiration for this month’s safety article is from an accident we had at work recently.

While in North Dakota I had received a phone call from a supervisor at one of our ND drilling sites and learned that one of our crew truck drivers had been in a rollover accident. Historically speaking any rollover accident in the oil patch is a BAD thing. Thankfully in this case we do see that there is an occasional miracle. Although the truck flipped it did land upright and my coworker walked away without a single injury.

With that all being said we still needed to do a preliminary incident investigation. The gentleman involved had just finished a 13-hour shift and had about an hour drive back to camp. First thoughts were along the lines of “asleep at the wheel” or “texting while driving.” It was neither.

The cause was “deviating from the lane of traffic” which is known amongst accident investigators to be a critical component in compounding the severity of accidents. In this case my coworker had a flock of birds (ducks or pheasants - he wasn’t sure) fly out of the ditch on his right side. His immediate reaction was to swerve and miss the birds. What resulted was the loss of control of the vehicle as the rear of the truck slid into the ditch, hitting a culvert, and resulting in the vehicle rolling. The consequences of “swerving” lead to a totaled vehicle and a potential fatality. Thankfully the later did not occur.

One thing I learned when I got my international driver’s license in Japan several years ago is that Americans like to “swerve” in order to try and avoid hazardous situations. The Japanese had some extremely detailed statistics on how Americans driving in Japan, while trying to avoid accidents, actually caused something worse.

The point of the article, and I understand that not everyone will agree with it, is that swerving to avoid hazards in the road can actually increase your risk for a much more serious accident. Better to hit a few birds than flip your vehicle...

My second point for this article is that “seat belts DO work!” My coworker in ND was properly restrained and walked away from his accident.

One of the saddest statistics I ever read came from some research I did a few years ago for a safety presentation. The NTSB had a statistic that over about a year’s time in the mid 2000’s that 31,000 children were fatally injured in automobile accidents. Of those 31,000, investigations showed that 16,000 of those children were shown to have not been properly restrained in seat belts or car seats. This is a systemic failure in our society’s commitment to protect our children.

Please do not be cavalier with the safety of your children and keep them properly buckled up while on the road.

Thanks and be safe!!!

Safety Note: A Couple of Points on Driving Safely

by Owen Martin, AFMS Safety Chair

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Recognized as the Official Magazine of the AFMS

Coming Next Month

The AFMS /SFMS Convention was held in Jacksonville, Florida in mid-September. Next month we’ll have the results of the various AFMS sponsored competitions --

All American Club Award
Competitive Exhibits,
Bulletin Editors’ Contest
Web Master’s Contest

In addition, we’ll let you know who received the AFMS Recognition Award and who the Committee Chairmen for 2013-14 will be.
The Way I See It

by Don Monroe, AFMS President

I am sure that all of us at one time or another are surprised (I call it blindsided) by things in our life. My most recent occurrence was when I realized that not only is my term of office as your president ending very soon, but this would be my last opportunity to communicate with all of you in the AFMS Newsletter. There is so much I want to say and so many of you I want to thank for all you have done to make my term so pleasant. Well I am going to have to address you in person at the upcoming Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, FL and other times when we wind up together.

In all of this there is a very bright spot. Your new president will be sworn in at the Annual Meeting and he will do an absolutely outstanding job. I will not be so presumptuous to say that I have trained him, but I will say that Richard Jaeger and I have spent much time discussing how I could have done things better and how he will do things better and how he will have a great group of folks to help him during his term and I will always be available for him if he needs me.

It’s been a pleasure serving as your president this past year. I wish each of you many pleasant hours pursuing our wonderful hobby.

Don

Does Your Club Have an MVP?

Baseball season is winding down and football season is gearing up. There is much interest at each of these games in which player will be named the game’s MVP (Most Valuable Player). This is generally the player who has contributed the most to the success of the team during the game being played.

Certainly your club has an MVP too. This can be someone who contributes greatly to the success of your club, be it “always being there for every activity” or the person who takes newbies under their wing and gets them started in the hobby, or an officer who serves the club year after year, etc. There are no set criteria for the selection.

Just like the ball teams like to publicize their MVP selections, you should be doing that as well. Grab a bit about your clubs’ good fortune in having this member (or a husband/wife team). Doing so is easy...by doing so, your MVP and your club will receive national attention!!!

Take a few minutes and write a 75-100 word review of all the things your club MVP does to make the club the success that it is. Send that glowing report to your regional Federations’ Club Rockhound of the Year chair and then, sit back and watch the accolades be placed in print in your regional federation newsletter and then here, in the AFMS Newsletter.

Every AFMS affiliated club may send in information about one MVP per calendar year. In addition, if you have a terrific junior member, you can recognize the junior as well.


The AFMS

Proudly Serving
Seven Regional
Federations

Officers:

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Has Fun: Junior Activities

by Jim Brace-Thompson, Juniors Program Chair

Diamond Dan Special Offer

Darryl Powell is the Juniors Program Chair of the Eastern Federation. As I’ve noted in past columns, Darryl is also owner and creator of Diamond Dan Publications, which offers a superb periodical directed directly to kids interested in rocks and minerals: Mini Miners Monthly. If you haven’t checked into making arrangements to purchase subscriptions for the kids in your society, I highly recommend you look into it. In fact, some entire regional federations have made arrangements for special discounted deals to provide this fine monthly to all societies with kids within their regional boundaries. Mini Miners Monthly never fails to provide kids with fun facts presented in fun ways.

In addition to the Monthly, Darryl offers a wide range of other activity-based games (such as Rockhound Bingo and puzzle kits) and activity-based books. Diamond Dan Publications has been celebrating their 20th anniversary this year. As part of the celebration, Darryl is offering a number of the activity books at 25% off (or just 75 cents per copy). These include The World of Minerals, Fossils, Minerals of the U.S.A., and more. E-mail him (diamonddan@rochester.rr.com) or check his web site (www.diamonddanpublications.net) for full details.

My local Ventura club just placed an order because we haven’t checked into making arrangements to purchase subscriptions for the kids in our society, I highly recommend you look into it. In fact, some entire regional federations have made arrangements for special discounted deals to provide this fine monthly to all societies with kids within their regional boundaries. Mini Miners Monthly never fails to provide kids with fun facts presented in fun ways.

In all of this there is a very bright spot. Your new president will be sworn in at the Annual Meeting and he will do an absolutely outstanding job. I will not be so presumptuous to say that I have trained him, but I will say that Richard Jaeger and I have spent much time discussing how I could have done things better and how he will do things better and how he will have a great group of folks to help him during his term and I will always be available for him if he needs me.

It’s been a pleasure serving as your president this past year. I wish each of you many pleasant hours pursuing our wonderful hobby.

Don
A.L.A.A. at Jacksonville, Florida
by Shirley Leeson, President (president@amlands.org)

At the AFMS Director’s meeting last month in Jacksonville, Florida we kicked off our membership drive for ALAA. All officers and directors and members of the audience received the 3rd Quarter issue of the ALAA Newsletter. The Host Society, via Jason Hamilton was kind enough to give us a table at the show so we could distribute information about ALAA.

I can only hope that each person who received the ALAA Newsletter and brochure (this is new) took them home to their regional federations and clubs.

I can only keep telling each and every one of you, that YOU COUNT. We, ALAA, can’t do this alone. We need your support and participation. We need to be a presence at each meeting that is held pertaining to closing public lands. Rockhounds need to stand up and be heard. I was taken aback a while back when at a government meeting in Southern California I overheard two government employees say, “someone signed in as a rockhound, I thought they were all gone.” They were talking about me! No, we’re not gone, but we are an endangered species and if we don’t stand up we will be nonexistent. How does that make you feel? It made me even more determined to see that rockhounding is part of the plan for each and every BLM and National Forest throughout America. Will YOU help me?

If you weren’t at the meeting in Jacksonville and didn’t receive a copy of the Newsletter and ALAA brochure, you can download it at <www.amlands.org>.

Join Us! Let’s get this done together...
AFMS Code of Ethics

1. I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner’s permission.
2. I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
3. I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
4. I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
5. I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings.
6. I will leave all gates as found.
7. I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
8. I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
9. I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
10. I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.
11. I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
15. 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.
16. I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
17. 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.

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.

Upcoming Regional and AFMS Conventions

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<th>Year</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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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Plymouth Mtg. PA.</td>
<td>Oct. 18 – 19 Des Moines, IA</td>
<td>August 15 – 17 Hermiston, OR</td>
<td>AFMS July 9 – 13 Tulsa, OK</td>
<td>August 9 – 10 ** Baton Rouge, LA</td>
<td>AFMS Austin, TX</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>May 23 – 24 Wheaton, IL (Chicago area)</td>
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<td>2016</td>
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