From the Desk of the President

David Wayment
AFMS President 2019-2020

As some of you may know, these articles are turned in a month before publication. It is now the first week of April, and most of the country is on lockdown. In Florida it is the first day of lockdown for a lot of businesses. My wife’s job closed down 3 weeks ago, and our bookstore closed 2 weeks ago.

No one knows how long this will last. Masks are now recommended. But we are also encouraged to get outside for fresh air and exercise, staying at least 6 feet away from everyone else. All the guidelines are for an evolving disease that no one has experience with, and to help keep everyone safe.

Now is the time to reach out to friends and family by phone, email, snail mail or text. Start on that project you were putting off because you didn’t have time. Clean up your workshop. Watch some classes on YouTube. Prepare a competition case for when our club shows start up again.

Until the virus is under control, please stay safe and healthy.

The Streets Are Paved with Gold (and Platinum)

By Tim Worstall, London Forbes Media LLC

An interesting little story from the UK about how the streets are quite literally spread with platinum and other valuable metals. It’s not quite the same as their being paved with gold, but with the right technology, it could have similar results.

One of the (UK’s) biggest street cleaning firms has announced it is to “mine” the sweepings it collects from roads and pavements, in search of gold and other precious metals. Veolia Environmental Services believes it can find at least £1 million (Editor’s Note: approximately $1.165 million USD) worth of materials like platinum (Pt), palladium (Pd) and rhodium (Rh) from the muck swept up from Britain’s streets each year.

The background to this is that all cars and trucks now have catalytic converters for pollution control. These are made with zirconia (zirconium oxide) and a small amount of the platinum group metals (PGM). Those for diesel engines might have 1 gram of platinum per half kilo [1.1 lb.] brick of zirconia, and those for (gasoline) engines a mixture of platinum, palladium and rhodium. A small car (say, a Ford Fiesta) might have a single half kilo brick in the converter, a large car say a V12 Jaguar, 8 such bricks. There’s a well-developed market for collecting and refining these converters when they come to the end of their working lives. . . Sometimes the converters fail and some part of that zirconia ends up coming out of the back of the exhaust pipe of the vehicle . . .

Pt, Pd and Rh derived from catalytic converters that reduce poisonous exhaust emissions are enriched in road dust. Studies of PGM concentrations (in) surface samples from UK roads, urban waste and natural sediments show that these elements are dispersed into natural and artificial drainage systems finding their way eventually into the sea. Maximum values of PGMs in road dust from the city of Sheffield (England) were found to be as high as 408 ppb of Pt, 444 ppb of Pd and 113 ppb of Rh. (Editor’s Note: These figures are parts per billion and the mining industry measures such things in parts per million (ppm), so the amounts of Pt, Pd and Rh are 0.408 ppm, 0.444 ppm and 0.113 ppm, respectively.) That’s actually a bit low for a PGM ore. You wouldn’t go and dig up a mountain for these values . . .

So, don’t go out sweeping the road and thinking that you’re going to get rich. However, for the people who are already sweeping the road, collecting the dust and having to landfill that dust, it might well be an attractive operation to try to recover those metals’ values. . . Read the full article at www.forbes.com/sites/timworstall/2013/07/15/the-streets-are-paved-with-gold-and-platinum/#67a3f19a1fa8.

Safety Matters

Covid-19

Ellery Borow  
AFMS Safety Chair

Pulling together to accomplish club goals is what we do—shows, field trips, educational programs and all manner of activities require a good deal of preparatory effort. A new common activity now faces us and our fellow club members. With a twister, we head to the shelter before it's in our neighborhood. With a flood, we head to high ground before the roads are inundated. In this instance there is a virus for which we need to prepare well before it is in our community or our town.

The problems associated with this virus, Covid-19, are nation-wide, world-wide. As responsible rock people and club members we should consider being a part of the solution rather than the problem. We do, after all, think of ourselves as leaders. It's what we do.

Vast quantities of information bits are circulating in the various media concerning the Covid-19 contagion. Some of the information is sound, some borders on rumor. Because the facts are still coming in, it is urged that one have the most accurate information to be safe and act safely. Reputable and trusted sources for Covid-19 information include:

- WHO - World Health Organization
- CDC - Center for Disease Control
- NIH - National Institute of Health
- NIAD - National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases

Checking with the above sources, as well as your own personal and trusted sources, plus your state and local sources, would be wise in order have the most current and accurate advice.

Here is the not-so-short list of activities and means to be safe, as of this writing:

- Check with reputable sources to stay informed.
- Watch for symptoms—dry cough, fever, chest pain (respiratory distress) and shortness of breath. Additional reported and beginning signs can include loss of sense of smell and gastro-intestinal unease.
- As the community itself is part of the risk, and indeed Covid-19-infected folks may, in the early stages, not realize they have the virus till symptoms show up. It is wise to exercise all pertinent cautions.
- If one experiences the symptoms or suspects they may have been in contact with the virus, contact your health care provider, clinic, or hospital to let them know your concerns. They may suggest visiting the facility or some other course of action. By contacting the health care provider first it gives them a heads-up of your situation so they can make preparations if a visit is warranted. Notification is a wise precaution because one would not want to spread virus to others unintentionally, especially in any doctor's office or health care facility where patients may already have compromised health.
- As Covid-19 transmission appears to be primarily via lung exhalation, it is wise to maintain a social and physical distance from others. Six feet is a recommended minimum with 10 feet a suggested preference.
- Many recommendations exist to avoid gatherings of people. Recommendations have decreased from gatherings of 250 people, to 100, to 50 to 10 to now as few as two. Common sense should be used in abundance.
- In certain instances a suitable face mask is suggested. A well fitted N-95 mask appears to work well with restricting transmission. Note—the words "well fitted." Beards impair a good fit. Surgical masks appear to be less effective.
- In certain instances gloves are suggested.
- Though respiration is thought to be the primary means of transmission, it is wise to keep from using hands to rub ones face, especially eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Though it seems older people suffer the worst effects of the virus, anyone, that’s anyone, can suffer serious results. Compromised immune and respiratory systems are particularly vulnerable, although apparently-healthy people may also suffer serious consequences. The latest mortality rate is between 5 times and 25 times the average flu. This is serious.
- As of this writing there is no know anti-virus for Covid-19. Estimates run from late fall 2020 to summer of 2021 for a reliable, effective, and available anti-virus drug (the later estimate is from the CDC).
- If uncertain of infection, get tested. But be aware, if one is exposed, it may take as many as several days for the virus to replicate sufficiently for the test to detect its presence.
- Doctors suggest the usual precautions of good diet, sufficient sleep, frequent exercise and current flu shot. In addition, common sense should prevail.
- Frequently wash hands for 20 seconds with soap and flowing water. This helps keep the virus from eyes, nose and mouth by casual or intentional touch by hands. If hand washing for 20 seconds is not available, cleansing with a hand sanitizer having a high alcohol content is recommended.
- Use ample common sense. The stores will not run out of it.

Please remain vigilant and reasonable about being safe... because your safety matters. We are sure, as a responsible rockhound, one would not want to bring a virus back to one's home or family, or bring it from one's family to another family. Please be safe.

The disclaimer: Understand that this article does not profess to offer medical advice but merely compiles data from several sources about the Covid-19 virus. For current information please check with trusted sources. Ed: Another source—https://www.speaker.gov/sites/speaker.
“Old fossils” have been roaming the exhibit hall at the annual show of my own Ventura Gem & Mineral Society. Yes, I now admit to being an old fossil myself, but that’s not the sort I’m referring to.

For several years, fellow VGMS member Jeff Miller both startled and thrilled kids as he crept through show aisles dressed in a big inflatable Tyrannosaurus rex suit. Apparently, Rex sprang a leak and had to be retired. So, taking a cue from Jeff’s example, this year I made an appearance dressed as our California State Fossil, Smilodon, the saber-tooth cat. Also known as “Smiley Don,” this cat was observed carrying around his young cub Smiley Dan, and he took time in his roaming to pose for photos with pebble pups in the Kids’ Booth.

While Jeff startled some in his Rex outfit, most looked at Smiley Don with bemused curiosity. Apparently, an extinct cat is not as immediately recognizable as an extinct dino. One person asked, “Hey! What are you? Some kind of ‘Furry’?” Another asked, “What bet did you lose?” Some smiled. Some laughed. Some pulled Smiley Don’s tail. And some just cocked heads in wonder. But watch out for dogs! Rover stared at me, I stared at Rover, and Rover immediately began barking and lunging. And this old cat scampered to the men’s room to change back into civilian clothing…

While reactions to both Rex and Smiley Don have varied among adult visitors at our shows, both old fossils have been uniformly well received by the kids. We hope they learned a memorable thing or two about fossils in the process. So at your next show, for the sake of the kids, get silly!

Where can you get such costumes? Next fall, as those temporary Halloween shops open their doors, check ’em out! The big inflatable ones, like T. rex can cost a hefty sum, but I was able to cobble together Smiley Don by purchasing a relatively cheap lion outfit that I modified with a Smilodon face mask acquired from the gift shop when our club did an “indoor fieldtrip” to the Rancho La Brea Tar Pits in Los Angeles. I think the mask may have cost me more than the suit, but it was money well spent in the effort to help kids learn while having fun!

From Shirley Leeson, ALAA President, 2020.

March 23, 2020

We, at ALAA, want to extend our sincere concern for all of you all over these United States. It’s been troubling times for all of us. This global corona virus pandemic is affecting all of our families, our businesses, our communities, even our way of life. We urge you all to take precautions for your safety and health and that of your families. We are strong, we are Americans and we have been through trying times in the past. Nothing will keep us down. Let’s all hope and pray that this curse will come to an end soon and we can get back to what recreational rockhounds do best….collect rocks.

So, rock on!

Shirley and the officers and directors of American Lands Access Assn.

Correction

Anne Cook, former Rules Chair, Eligibility Chair, and AFMS Secretary suggests this correction of the April article about Rules:

The article states, "In a Society or Junior Society there must be a MAXIMUM of 5 people participating.” On the contrary, there must be a MINIMUM of 5 people participating. More than 5 are fine.
AFMS Scholarship Foundation

AFMS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION: For the purpose of financially aiding young men and women in acquiring an education in the field of Earth Sciences, this Federation shall organize and form a Division of the Federation to be known as the 'AFMS Scholarship Foundation'. The Federation shall so organize this Foundation as to be incor- porated and have its own Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws apart from the Federation; such laws to be formed as set forth by the Board of this Federation.

Did you know that the AFMS scholarship foundation runs on donations only? I was not aware of this before I became President. Knowing all of the good that this organization does, I am sending out a request that all clubs and federations make a small donation to the Scholarship Foundation. How much should you make? If every club in every Federation of the participating federations donated 50 cents per member, the foundation would have most of their necessary budget. Having been a teacher, watching 6th graders asking how much it would cost to go to college, I would always tell them to look for scholarships. Having met college students at Caltech, I truly understand the importance of scholarships. Many Universities and Colleges will match a student’s scholarship, so AFMS is really helping the student.

AFMS Scholarship Foundation - A Resume to Refresh Our Memories

The establishment of the Scholarship foundation was authorized by the addition of an Article to the By-Laws of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies in 1958. The AFMS Scholarship Foundation, Inc. was set up as a separate corporation with its own officers and directors.

Organization: The Foundation was incorporated as the AFMS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION, INC., a Minnesota Corporation on March 18, 1964. A Tax Exemption Certificate was obtained from the Internal Revenue Service on November 6, 1964. The Board of Directors consists of: The President of the AFMS who is automatically both the Vice-President and a Director of the Foundation. The other Directors are: the AFMS President-Elect, and the President and the Vice-President of each of the six participating Regional Federations. The Board of Directors has the management of the Foundation. The Board elects a President, a Treasurer, and a Secretary, each for two-year terms, the President being elected one year, the Treasurer and Secretary being elected the next year to insure continuity of experi- enced management. It will be seen that the Foundation, while an independent Corporation, is entirely in the control of AFMS Federation personnel.

Purpose of the Foundation: The object of the Foundation is to accumulate a Fund, using only the income from the Fund to finance Scholarships. The principal cannot be used for any purpose whatever, hence the usefulness of the Fund is perpetual.

Awards to Beneficiary Students: Beginning in 1965, one student received a scholarship grant of $300.00 per year for two years to help achieve an advanced degree in any of the Earth Sciences. In 1966, the grant was increased to $400.00 per year for two years; in 1967, the grant was increased to $500.00 per year for two years.

As the Fund, and hence the income from it, increased, the grants were increased and, subsequently, more students received scholarship grants. By 1972, each Regional Federation received one grant of $750.00 per year for two years. Grants were increased to $1,000.00 per year in 1976; to two scholarship grants per each Regional Federation in 1981. In 1983, each grant was increased to $1,500.00 per year for two years; and the amount was increased to $2,000.00 per year for each grant in 1988. In 2009-2010 additional funds were raised to allow the educational grants to increase to a single $4,000 educational grant starting with 12 students selected in the 2009-10 school year.

Grants are restricted to Graduate students to avoid the possible waste of money on students who are not committed to Earth Science subjects, or who drop out before graduation (Any student working toward an advanced degree is presumed to have definitely decided to follow that field for his/her lifetime vocation, insofar as such decision is possible). Since our joint interests lie in that field, grants are restricted to Earth Science students who are U.S. Citizens.

Selection of Beneficiary Students: Until 1972, one person of prominence in the Earth Science field was selected from among twelve nominees, 2 from each Regional Federation. That person, normally associ- ated with a prominent University or College, selected the schools, and the students who received the grants. Since 1972, each participating Regional Federation has selected their own Honorary Award Winner who then selected the school(s) and assisted with the selection of the student, or students, who then received the scholarship grant(s). This indirect method has served our purpose perfectly in that it benefits needy stu- dents, yet avoids the enormous task and expense of receiving, sifting through and evaluating applications from hundreds of applicants, which would otherwise be necessary if selections were made by ourselves in the conventional manner.

The Fund: In the beginning, Betty Crocker coupons were accepted and turned in to General Mills at 1/2¢ per point until December 31, 1974., when the program was discontinued by General Mills. Coupons accounted for approximately 10% of the Fund at that time. Since that time, the trust fund has been supported by donations and memorials from “rockhounds”, nationwide. The market value of the investments of the Foundation, as of October 31, 2010, stood at just over $1,024,170.00. With the exception of a few hundred dollars received from outside orga- nizations, the entire amount has been donated, by Earth Science Clubs and Societies throughout the entire nation, and by individual members of such groups.

Gifts: All gifts to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation are held to be tax- deductible to the donor, and are normally added to the “trust” account. Gifts should be sent to each Regional Federation's Scholarship Chairman, who will see that the donor receives proper credit, and will for- ward the gifts to the proper Foundation Officer. Founder's Certificates are issued to individuals, dealers, or firms that contribute $500.00 or more to the Fund, either as one gift or cumulatively, but the individual’s club does not receive credit for such gifts.

Gifts may be made directly to the “Unrestricted Fund” by marking “Unrestricted” on the donation check or in a letter accompanying the donation. Unrestricted funds are not automatically put in to the investment account and may be directly paid out as educational grants to stu- dents instead of using the investment income only from the trust (investment) account, for the educational grants. Goals for the Future: Our first goal was to establish a Fund of $50,000.00 which would pro- vide an annual scholarship in Earth Science. This goal was reached in 1968. Having attained that goal, do we stop when such attractive vistas and horizons appeared? By no means! The Fund has now achieved over twenty times it first goal and we are providing a single year scholarship grant of $4,000.00 each year to two students selected by each of the six participating Regional Federations.

What do we see ahead? Wonderful additional opportunities for service and help for more and more students. Remember, the Fund itself is not consumed - only the income from it. Whatever is in the “restricted trust fund” keeps working year after year, indefinitely into the future. The larger it grows, the better it can do - not only once, but time after time as the years go by. After the 2010-11 educational grants were paid out, 566 students have received financial educational assistance because of your generosity. At that time, the total dollar amount of grants paid out since the program inception in 1964 totaled $1,540,650.00.

First written by W.H. DeHeui President (10/69); updated by Glenn Lee, President (10/83); updated (7/93) by Louellen Montgomery, President; updated (12/04) by Dee Holland. AFMS Scholarship Foundation President; updated (7/11) by Jon Spumaugle, Treasurer and Foundation Past President
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.

Tip for Bulletin Editors

Mark Nelson, AFMS Bulletin Editors Advisory Chair

As the Bulletin Editors Contest for 2019 publications comes to a close and BEACs are sending their clubs best work to the judges, I know that our editors are already gearing up for next year’s contest! Here is a small tip that can make a big difference in the appearance and readability of your bulletin: Tip: Remove the end hyphens! Most of us create a written narrative for our bulletin, and we paste it into the desired space in the bulletin, where it sorts itself to fill and fit in the space allowed. This can result in words being split in a haphazard manner. Without some form of hyphenation control, there are many sentences where the words are cut off with a hyphen—such as this example:

For example, the following text is fully justified but not hyphenated. The spaces between the words look wide and make the whole paragraph look quite ugly. For example, the following text is fully justified but not hyphenated. The spaces between the words look wide and make the whole paragraph look quite ugly. For example, the following text is fully justified but not hyphenated. The spaces between the words look wide and make the whole paragraph look quite ugly.

The resulting paragraph sloppy in appearance and can be difficult to read, as it requires going carefully from one line to the next to see what the previous word meant. This can be corrected in several ways. One way is through the Full Justification button in Microsoft Publisher, Word and in Word Perfect. It requires a little management to push the text to the next line in those cases where there is hyphenation. This can sometimes result in words being spaced wider than you might want, and is more common when the paragraphs are in narrow columns with fewer words per line, like this example:

For example, the following text is fully justified but not hyphenated. The spaces between the words look wide and make the whole paragraph look quite ugly.

For most of our bulletins, full justification produces great results, because we rarely see three columns on a page—as in this example. This may or may not be desirable to the editor, but it makes reading easier overall! In Word there is another tool—the paragraph hyphenation tool. To use this, highlight the paragraph with the cursor, then select the text. Under the Page Layout tab select the Hyphenation box. This will give you the option of having no hyphens (None), or Automatic or Manual options—and more. Give this a try and see how you like the results!
VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS (From April, 2020 The Strata Data, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society of Fort Wayne IN)

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 virus, our collecting trips are pretty much at a standstill. But travel via the Internet is wide open. SO, for your at-home collecting pleasure, here are some virtual field trips you can take to visit some fabulous museums.

SMITHSONIAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
https://naturalhistory.si.edu/visit/virtual-tour

DAVID FRIEND HALL, Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History

SOUTH DAKOTA SCHOOL OF MINES & TECHNOLOGY
https://www.sdsmt.edu/Campus-Life/The-Campus/Virtual-Tour/O-Harra/
You can also watch a cool video about putting a Mosasur skeleton together.

And, if a virtual field trip isn’t your “thing,” remember that field trip you went on several years ago? You were too busy to do anything with what you found, so you bagged or boxed the stuff up and put it in the basement or garage. NOW IS THE PERFECT TIME to get that stuff out and go through it. Have a second field trip as you look over each specimen. Make yourself decide what to do with each piece. Perhaps you will discover a really nice specimen! Take a photo of it and share it with your rockhound buddies on the private page of your club’s FACEBOOK site.
Here is the listing of Committee Chairs for 2019-20. Please feel free to contact these people if you need information, have questions or would like to share ideas with them.

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**Parliamentarian**
Steve Weinberger (see Bylaws Revisory)

**Past President’s Advisory**
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Sandy Fuller, Vice President  
Margaret Kolaczyk, Secretary  
Barbara Ringhiser, Treasurer
AFMS Code of Ethics

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner’s permission.
I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or 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 wilful 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 wilful 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.

Purpose of the AFMS:
To promote popular interest and education in the various Earth Sciences, and in particular the subjects of Geology, Mineralogy, Paleontology, Lapidary and related subjects, and to sponsor and provide ways to coordinate the work and efforts of all interested persons and groups; to sponsor and encourage the formation and international development of Societies and Regional Federations and thereby to strive toward greater international good will and fellowship

The A.F.M.S. Newsletter is normally published monthly except January, July and August by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.
Each Regional Federation Club is entitled to receive three (3) copies of the AFMS Newsletter. These are usually sent to the President, Federation Director and Editor.
Subscription Information, Distribution Questions and address changes should be sent to the AFMS Central Office. Subscriptions are $5.00 per year. Checks should be made payable to “AFMS” and sent to Cheryl Neary
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Content – Letters, Editorial Comments – Submissions
Any communication concerning the content or format of the newsletter, and questions should be sent to the Editor.
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Upcoming AFMS and Regional Federation Conventions from Emerson Tucker

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<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>Southeastern Federation</th>
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<td>2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 25-28</td>
<td>Tentatively</td>
<td>Apr 10-12</td>
<td>June 19-21</td>
<td>AFMS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Los Angeles, CA</td>
<td>Postponed to Oct. 23-25 Hickory, NC</td>
<td>Ogden, UT Cancelled</td>
<td>Big Piney, WY</td>
<td>April 21-25 So. Jordon, UT</td>
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<td>Cancelled</td>
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<td>Howell, MI</td>
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<td>2021</td>
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<td>Sept 10 - 12</td>
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<td>April 16-18</td>
<td>July</td>
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<td>April 21 - 25 So. Jordon, UT</td>
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<td>January 29 - 30 Tyler, TX</td>
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