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President's Report

Greetings all,

First I'd like to report on my trip to the recent start-up of the SFMS Rockhound Roundup. To be honest, I was a little disappointed that we didn't see better attendance, particularly for the business meetings. But, that aside, I'd say the weekend was a great success. I believe we had enough vendor support to cover the expenses. And we had vendors from four different states. The facility was excellent for our purposes so I expect we will be there again next year. After those who did attend have had a chance to spread the word of our good time I expect things will be livelier at the next Roundup. Thanks to all who helped make this first effort happen.

Among the main subjects we discussed at the meeting was our Ten Points Benefits presentation. We should have a detailed package available to distribute soon. Over the next few months I will be highlighting points from the program. This time I'd like to discuss our Programs and Archives. Over the years we have collected quite a bit of information on various subjects. Sadly some of this may have been lost through the chemical deterioration of photographic slides. But we have saved what we can from slides, video tapes, etc. Fortunately some of this material is now in digital form and available for members to use. Our membership chair, Jason Hamilton, has assumed responsibility for this collection. You can see a list of available programs in your directory and contact Jason to borrow them. Quite a few of these are made available by the American Federation from among the winners of their national program competition. These can be very useful for club meeting presentations or teaching purposes. In the past these resources have seen very little use. So, to make them more successful, efforts are under way to put them into downloadable form for easy distribution. Our club has “live” presentations at our meetings but our program chair usually has a couple of “canned” presentations on hand in case one of our presenters can’t make it to a meeting. You should all look over the list and see if there is something useful for you there. The SFMS is eager to help you keep learning.

Reggie Bolton
Alabama Mineral and Lapidary Society
2019 SFMS president

Editor's Note

Greetings to my fellow rockhounds.

I have been the editor of the Lodestar for several years. As my age has increased (now 73) I looked forward and realized that I wanted to transition out of this job smoothly with a new person accepting and coming on board while I would still be here to provide assistance as needed. This process has been going on in the background for a few months now. Lori Heinemann is transitioning into the position. She has many years experience as an editor of club newsletters and is working very hard learning about the Lodestar.

Anyone who wishes to subscribe to the Lodestar and/or submit an article/show/report for publication can still use the same email address: sfms.lodestar@gmail.com This address was established so this type
of transition could be done. Lori has access to this email, and will continue to use it. All she needs to do is change the password and I will no longer have access.

Keep on rocking,

John

John Atwell Rasmussen, Ph.D., AJP
past editor Lodestar

Secretary's Report

SFMS Secretary's Report

If you attended the Rockhound Roundup and Executive Meeting, we hope you enjoyed yourself as much as we did! The Suwannee Music Park was perfect for the events, and given the overwhelming positive comments, we are looking forward to next year. We are exploring dates a little earlier in the year, end of February, first of March so it will be much cooler. Keep an eye out for updates as we move forward with next year’s plan!

Jerri Heer
SFMS Secretary

Scammers on the Rise, Again!

Beware everyone! A new round of email scams has started using a look-alike email pretending to be your President or an SFMS Officer, asking you to process a payment to a vendor, and promising reimbursement.

NEVER send payment based on a simple email! The Dothan club sent in an alert, and I know that I and several other SFMS officers have gotten similar emails. All clubs should have a double verification process in place that requires an actual invoice and a secondary voice verification from your President, etc. Scammers are clever and creative. Don’t fall for it!

Jerri Heer
SFMS Secretary

Committee Reports

Safety

Greetings all, we seem to have passed through spring, it must have been about 2 hours about 2 weeks ago. We are now in pre-August or so it seems, while our neighbors and friends in the mid-west must be looking for the folks building modern day arcs. And our friends in the far west have had snow at the higher elevations. Not sure the last time San Francisco had rain this late in May.
Last month, we talked about eye safety. Well, I left off one very important issue. Protecting your eyes while outside; yes, sunglasses are needed when you are outdoors. Now, you do not have to get the expensive ones, but be sure they are polarized, this will help with the glares. It also cuts down on wrinkles in your forehead and around your eyes since you will not squint as much. Dual benefit, wow.

This month we need to emphasize the issues associated with the hot weather and being outside in the sunshine. This is a multi-faceted issue. The weather folks have continually repeated the issue of keeping hydrated. This is especially important if you have to work outside this time of year. Beer is about 95% water, but the 5% alcohol is not the beverage recommended when you are still working and trying to maintain a proper degree of hydration. After work, it is your choice.

The use of sunscreen and personal coverings are highly recommended. Skin cancer can be a major issue. I have had 6 indications scooped and 5 indications frozen to remove the little critters. Many folks have had more than I and all of mine were caught at an early stage, thanks to my wife and a friend who insisted that I go to the medic with a bad place on my arm. That was about 5 years ago and now I go see the doctor every 6 months for a check-up.

Our youngest son and his family live near Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. Brisbane is about as far south of the equator and Orlando is north of the equator. As a result, the sun can be brutal. When the family goes out, we all wear “rashies”, which is a loose fitting shirt that blocks the sun and we cover all exposed skin with sunscreen. Last year, I covered everything except the top of my feet and I got a very bad sunburn on the top of my feet, it limited my beach activities.

The heat can also lead to heat exhaustion and unfortunately heat stroke. Both of these are dangerous hazards. One of our neighbors, an elderly lady went outside last summer and fell, she could not get up and passed out in the heat. Her body temperature when the first responders arrived was 107. She passed away a day later.

Attached to this is a section from the CDC web site on heat related health issues.

So be safe and enjoy the summer and stay cool.
Executive Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2019, St. Petersburg, Florida

1. Call to Order: 10:31AM
2. Invocation – Craig Hamilton
3. Introductions
4. Pledge of Allegiance
6. Quorum Check–1/3 of Executive Board: (Officers, Past President, State Directors) \( \frac{22}{3} = 8 \), 11 Executive members present

7. Approval of Agenda: Dave Wayment requested that we add ALAA to New Business. Motion made to accent Agenda as amended by Dave Wayment, second by Barbi Beatty. Motion carried.

8. Parliamentarian Appointment: Buddy Shotts

9. Minutes – From September 2018 Annual Meeting - In Packet. Motion to accept made by Dave Wayment, second by Phil Kaiser. Motion carried.

10. Remarks by 1st Vice President – Jesse extended welcome, explained President Reggie Bolton’s absence, and hope for his improved health. Asked for patience as he learned his job.

11. Officer Reports:
   a. 1st Vice President: Jesse Griffin - In Packet
   b. 2nd Vice President: Melissa Hill – In Packet
   c. Secretary: Jerri Heer – In Packet
   d. Treasurer: Barbi Beatty- In Packet. In addition, Barbi indicated that she needs to collect receipts and documentation from Workshop Directors to be prepared for taxes. She also pointed out that the workshops operated in the negative in 2018. She indicated that although it is not a problem now, continued negative years would not be advisable. Dave Wayment clarified how William Holland and Wildacres operated. Barbi also introduced a potential CD opportunity to vote on under new business.
   e. Asst. Treasurer – David Liles – In Packet
   f. Membership Secretary: Jason Hamilton – In Packet
   g. Lodestar Editor: John Rasmussen – No Report
   h. Immediate Past President: Craig Hamilton - No Report
   i. A.F.M.S. President Elect: Dave Wayment – No Report

12. State Director Reports:
   a. Alabama: Philip Kaiser- In Packet
   b. Florida: Rosemary Van Wandelen – In Packet
   Florida Assistant Director: Eric Terry
   Florida Assistant Director: Tom Mitchell
   c. Georgia: Kim Cochran – In Packet
   d. Kentucky: Open
   e. Louisiana: Open
   f. Mississippi: Buddy Shotts – In Packet
   g. North Carolina: Gail Ferguson- No Report
   h. South Carolina: Open
   i. Tennessee: Teresa Polly – In Packet
   j. Virginia: Open

13. S.F.M.S. Committee Chair Reports:
   a. Bulletin Editor’s Contest: Mark Easterbrook – In Packet
   b. Constitution and Bylaws: Travis Paris -No Report – Travis indicated that he and Danny Griffin are working on digitizing the 19th revision, which replaced the Stamp Program. Secretary needs to research and confirm passage in 2017.
   d. Education: Lisa Roberts – In Packet
e. Field Trip: Charles Carter – No Report
f. Historian: Don Monroe – No Report
g. Long Range Planning: Teresa Polly, Craig Hamilton – No Report
h. Nominations: Craig Hamilton – No Report
i. Public Relations: Open
j. Publications: Open
k. Safety: Bob Green - No Report
l. Slide, Video & DVD Programs: Jason Hamilton – In packet
m. Supplies: Dave Wayment – No Report – Dave indicated that he had T-Shirts and Pins available for sale.

2019 Annual Meeting Host – Huntsville – In Packet

o. Uniform Rules: Leslie Wayment – No Report
p. Ways & Means: Jesse Griffin - No Report
q. Webmaster: Jeff Ursillo- No Report
r. Wildacres Workshop Director: Gail DeLuca – No Report – It was indicated that Gail stepped down and either Lisa Roberts or Danny Griffin will step in for those duties.
s. Wildacres Workshop Registrar: Claudia Erwin – No Report
t. William Holland Workshop Director: Kristine Robertson- In Packet
u. William Holland Workshop Registrar: Teddy Ratliff- No Report
v. Workshop Scholarship Committee – Dave Wayment – No Report – Dave has more tickets if needed, and requested donations for prizes.
w. Youth Resources: Craig Hamilton – In Packet

14. **A.F.M.S. Committee Representative Reports:**
   a. A.F.M.S. Newsletter: Open
   b. All American: Open
c. Boundaries: Buddy Shotts - No Report – Buddy commented that he just spoke to the President of the New Orleans club who indicated that their club would probably not renew with SFMS but maintain their Membership with the SCFMS. As they are the only Louisiana club in our Federation, we will no longer have to fill a Louisiana State Director.
d. Bulletin Editors’ Advisory: Mark Easterbrook – In Packet
e. Bulletin Editor’s Hall of Fame: Mark Easterbrook– In Packet
f. Club Rockhound of the Year: Marty Hart- In Packet
g. Collecting Sites: Open
h. Conservation and Legislation: Open
i. Endowment Fund: Dave Wayment – No Report – Last chance to buy tickets. Drawing will be at AFMS Annual mtg in Iowa later this month.
j. Inter-Regional Field Trip: Charles Carter – No Report
k. Junior Program: Open
l. Program Competition: Jason Hamilton- No Report
m. Public Relations: Jennifer Runion - No Report
n. Publications & Supplies: Dave Wayment - No Report
o. Safety: Bob Green- No Report
q. Ways & Means: Jesse Griffin – No Report
r. Website: Jeff Ursillo – No Report
s. Website Contest: Jeff Ursillo – No Report

15. Old Business:

a. Progress on Plan to create and distribute 10 point “Benefits of SFMS” to Clubs – originally presented by Reggie Bolton, Wayne Dodd. It was suggested that a committee be developed for each area. The Secretary read the ten Categories:

   i. Programs and Archives
   ii. Mayo Educational Foundation
   iii. Club Development
   iv. Interclub Connections
   v. Federation Sponsored Club Insurance
   vi. Field Trips
   vii. Youth Program and Support
   viii. Lapidary Education
   ix. Competitive Cases and Judges
   x. National Affiliation

Phil Kaiser suggested that we produce a dramatic flyer that includes the list and could be distributed to all clubs, and at the Rockhound Roundup. Could be produced with our marketing budget. As each was reviewed, some volunteered to help in some areas. It was further suggested that the list be published in the Lodestar to appeal for additional assistance throughout the membership.

b. Rockhound Roundup- Organizational work has already begun. In order for the SFMS to assume leadership of the event, Dennis Buchannan made a motion that the SFMS Host the event. Second by Lori Heinemann. Motion carried. Discussed the plan to make the Roundup an annual event to promote interclub and SFMS interaction. Jerri described the venue and available space to fill with vendor sites. She indicated that based on her discussions with the site manager, we should be able to fit a minimum of 50 spaces, perhaps as many as 100. After some discussion about setting the vendor fee, Dennis Buchannan made a motion to charge in introductory rate of $20, with the possibility of increasing in future years to expand the event. More discussion was followed by a vote, 7 for, 14 against. Motion failed. It was suggested that paying $220 for show Insurance, printing banners, preparing for the event might cost more. We don’t want the event to run in the red. Motion by Lori Heinemann to charge $25, Dave Wayment, seconded, vote was 14 for, 7 against. Motion carried. Additional discussion followed with suggestions for terms and information to be included in the application. Jerri will get the information to Jeff Ursillo who has planned a separate page of information for the event within the next few days. Jerri ended the topic with the suggestion that if the event is successful, and grows, we might, in the future, be able to use this revenue stream to fund travel stipends to State Directors and Officers to support SFMS business without being a burden to clubs.

c. Brainstorm possible people to fill vacant positions. Need many to fill openings. Discussed the open State Director Positions and Committee positions. Buddy Shotts discussed the process to elect a new State Director. Melissa Hill will be working on this. In reviewing the Committee positions, it was suggested the Publications Chair is an obsolete position, because all publications are now digital. Motion made by Dave Wayment, second by Jason Hamilton to drop the Publications position. Motion carried.
Dave also suggestion that due to Don Monroe’s ill health, we should be looking to fill that position as well. Travis Paris indicated after looking over the Bylaws, since Publications was a Standing Committee, it could only be removed by an amendment to the Bylaws. Therefore, Dave made a motion and Jason seconded to rescind his previous motion. This carried, with recognition that we need to pursue that amendment.

It was suggested that vacant positions with descriptions, be published in the Lodestar to try to solicit volunteers to fill them. Motion made by Phil Kaiser to table the issue, second by Barbi Beatty. Motion carried.

16. New Business
a. ALAA – Dave Wayment announced he is now the Southeast Director. He described their mission and purpose to help protect right to collect and access public lands for that purpose. He encouraged everyone to consider joining and supporting the organization. Individual membership is just $25 per year. Dennis Buchannan and Travis Paris also spoke in support.

b. Barbi Beatty repeated the proposal to invest $10,000 in a CD with Wells Fargo with a term of 19 months at an APR of 2.6%, to continue at rollover at 2.57%. Jerri Heer made a motion to purchase the CD as described. Reba Shotts seconded. Motion carried.

c. The announcement of a new SFMS Workshop website was discussed. There was some confusion as to who started it and under what circumstances. Teresa will investigate.

d. Travis Paris brought up the Dixie Mineral Council. He was concerned that he had heard some confusion as to whether SFMS members could attend fieldtrips without membership in a DMC participating club. It was restated that the DMC rules had always maintained that only members of DMC participating clubs can attend DMC Field trips. Then it was suggested that the DMC should send out an article to the Lodestar to restate the rules.

17. Adjourn - Dave Wayment made a motion to adjourn, Reba Shotts seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:50 PM

Executive Meeting Agenda – May 2019

Officer Reports:

President:

Thank you to all who have worked to make our first SFMS Rockhound Roundup a reality, particularly to our indefatigable secretary Jerri Heer. I hope this will serve as a firm stepping stone for our overall efforts to improve the federation’s relevance to our member clubs. Thanks also to Wayne Dodd for his work on our benefits presentation designed to be used by our state director’s and officers to communicate the ways in which federation membership can be useful.

By the time you read this you may have noticed that, after years of faithful (and largely underappreciated) service our Lodestar editor John Rasmussen and our webmaster Jeff Ursillo are stepping down from their positions. We owe them a vote of thanks for their long-suffering willingness to do these crucial jobs for the federation. And they have been very helpful in the process of transferring both of these jobs to Lori Heineman of the Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society. This new arrangement should streamline information flow and help keep both the website and the newsletter as current as possible. Lori has also been appointed to the vacant position of Publications chair which we will be updating to reflect the growing im-
I was truly disappointed to miss our March business meeting. But fortunately I was able to recover from my hospital stay barely in time to attend the AFMS annual meeting in Cedar Rapids, Iowa with the able assistance of my wife, Bunny. The Cedar River club were wonderful hosts and their show did an excellent job of showcasing Iowa geodes. (I'll have some at the Roundup.) It was a pleasure to spend some time in person with the national officers as well as with representatives of the other regions. David Nock, Eastern federation president, was very interested in our Roundup and we discussed possibilities for future cooperation between our regions. This should be a natural fit since we have several members from Virginia and Kentucky, states that are technically in the eastern region. There are a number of our clubs, particularly in Florida and Alabama, that are members of both Southeast and Eastern federations. For the most part these affiliations date back to before the time when these two federations separated but I think that, at long last, any hard feelings from that time have evaporated and I look forward to some joint projects.

1st Vice President

I’ve been very excited for the Rockhound roundup up, and hope everyone has shared in my enthusiasm! With it comes the opportunity to meet up with other members again for business and for fun. I have no major news to report, but will very soon be putting together a tentative schedule for next year's meeting locations. I would also appreciate any information or potential volunteer location be mentioned to me soon. Thank you very much for all your hard work and I look forward to seeing everyone.

Respectfully,
Jesse Griffin

Secretary

This has been a busy quarter. I have spent most of my time coordinating the Rockhound Roundup. Since this is our first event of this type, I will be looking for all participants to critique the event (kindly, I hope) to make improvements as we go forward. I would love for this event to grow into a “must do” event for members of this this Federation. Please feel free to email constructive suggestions to me at jheerx6@aol.com.

I have also been assisting Wayne Dodd, Reggie Bolton, and Lori Heinemann on fleshing out the Ten Points of SFMS Presentation. This still has some ways to go but is making real progress. When complete, we’ll need assistance from everyone to make it a working plan of action.

Lastly, I have been combing through old secretary records trying to find past Bylaws revisions to assist Danny Griffin and Travis Paris in their Bylaws review. I’ll be turning some old records over to Danny so that he can verify past amendments.

Respectfully,
Jerri Heer
Assistant Treasurer

Status of Club Insurance as of 4/18/19

My primary duty as Assistant Treasurer for the Southeast Federation of Mineral Societies (SFMS) is to serve as the Insurance Liaison. Liability insurance is made available to SFMS member Clubs and Societies through the SFMS Insurance program. The insurance covers member club activities such as field trips and shows. As liaison I am responsible for collecting insurance payments and forms, summarizing same, and organizing of insurance purchase through the Federation's agent - Snellings Walters Insurance Agency, via the insurance carrier, **Cincinnati Insurance Company**.

I have attached a Spreadsheet titled “SFMS Checks Paid for Insurance year 2019-2020” as of the beginning of the insurance year starting 4/1/19. This summarizes my experience in collecting payments for insurance from the various clubs of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Also noted are clubs that opted not to buy insurance, and clubs who buy insurance from other vendors. Below are some summary statistics from this spreadsheet,

**Insured Club Status - 2019-20 year:**

- Clubs purchasing Member Insurance via SFMS = 58
- Clubs Purchasing Show Insurance from SFMS= 33
- Clubs Providing Own Insurance = 7
- Clubs without Member Insurance = 6
- Clubs Disbanded = 2
- Clubs that Changed Regional Affiliation from SFMS= 2
- Clubs that Changed Regional Affiliation to SFMS= 1

Total Clubs listed on Spreadsheet = 75

Total cost of Club Insurance purchased using SFMS Program $14,726

Total cost of Show Insurance Purchased using SFMS Program $ 7,700

I have also attached a copy of insurance policy documentation for insurance provided by the SFMS through its insurance program – by the Cincinnati Insurance Company, as purchased through Snellings & Walters Insurance Agency for the 2019-20 insurance year. This is a General Liability and Umbrella Liability policy – per policy details.

**Discussion of Insurance Liaison Role:**

The needed insurance forms can be found on SFMS Website, and are there for use by SFMS Clubs. These forms are updated each January to reflect the dates of the new insurance year, the name and address of the SFMS Assistant Treasurer / Insurance Liaison, and the insurance rates for club members and shows. Clubs apply for insurance on using the official club membership numbers for the immediate prior calendar year. This is recorded on the insurance application form, the insurance liability computed, and the form and check for payment remitted to the Assistant Treasurer. If insurance for a show is desired, this is $220 per show.

The insurance contract between SFMS and Cincinnati Insurance Co. is renewed every 3 years. Rates computed and charged based on the numbers of insured clubs, club members, and shows. Basically, the
larger the number of members and shows insured in past years, the lower the insurance cost for both members and shows at contract renewal time – all else constant. The current 3 year contract starts with this insurance year - April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020. The insurance cost for SFMS member clubs is currently $2 per member per year and $220 per show & these rates are fixed through March 31 2023.

Each year, I start the club reminder process in early February by notifying each SFMS Club’s officers (Club President, Treasurer & Insurance Liaison – as identified in the prior year’s SFMS Directory) by email of the availability of insurance. If I find out about any new clubs that have joined the SFMS since the issue of the last directory, then I send an email to them also. I attach the updated insurance application forms to this email, and I also point out that they are on the SFMS Web Page.

During the months of February and March I keep a record of clubs purchasing insurance on the attached spreadsheet (summary details above). Every week I mail the insurance payments and support documentation from member Clubs and Societies to the SFMS Treasurer for deposit (note: There is no Wells Fargo bank in Knoxville, so I don’t deposit the checks myself). Throughout the year & as requested by clubs, I communicate with Snellings Walters to insure that the carrier (Cincinnati) issues a proof of insurance to the insured club and to property owners that host club shows- as requested.

The decision as to whether or not to buy member and show insurance is open to each club; however, clubs that host and participate in the Dixie Mineral Council field trips are required to have insurance covering the membership in their clubs. SFMS clubs can obtain insurance on their own, or they can use the Insurance offered by the SFMS.

Future Insurance Related Work & Initiatives:

It has come to my attention that the By-Laws of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies require that Officers who handle money be insured. See Article III, Section 6 (Treasurer) paragraph E of the Bylaws from 2005: “The Treasurer shall take out a Bonding Policy through any Insurance or Bonding company to protect himself, Workshop Registrars, and the Federation. The policy shall cover the greatest amount of money the Treasurer or Registrars are likely to have in their custody during their official term of office. This policy shall be paid for by the Federation and shall be placed in the defined custody of the President.”

I suggest that SFMS purchase such insurance or remove the requirement from the By-Laws. I have seen some email discussion of this, so others are aware of the need for action on this.

*******************************************************************************************************

Membership Secretary

The SFMS 2019 Directory has been completed and emailed to everyone in the directory. Everyone that is entitled to get a hard copy can pick theirs up at the SFMS 2019 second Meeting in Live Oak. I have an approved list and no, you can’t have two. All printed directories will be signed for before being handed out. The remaining directories will be mailed out after the Live Oak meeting in an attempt to reduce postage cost. If you didn’t get a copy emailed to you, then the email delivered to me for the directory for you is incorrect. If you would like a copy emailed to you, send an email requesting a copy to: silver-rocks@comcast.net

In 2019 we gained 1 new club, "The Tampa Bay Fossil Club" with 524 members, and lost 4 clubs totaling 199 members. The Gem & Mineral Society of Louisiana pulled away from the SFMS to join the other three clubs in Louisiana in the Central Federation. Both the Ti-State Gem and Mineral Club of NC and Chattanooga Geology Club of TN have folded. The Tennessee Valley Rock & Mineral Club simply did not re-
spond to any form of communication for 2019. There were 11 clubs that failed to respond with directory updates for 2019.

In 2018 there were 74 clubs with 8,545 total members in the SFMS. In 2019 we have 71 clubs with a total of 8,703 members, a growth of 158 members.

The Smaller clubs need our help to survive and grow or they too will be lost. It's up to us to help them. Review the directory and look at the total members for each club in your area or your state. If the total number is 50 or less, this is a sign that you need to reach out to them and supply them with resources to help strengthen their club. There are 22 clubs in the SFMS with 50 members or less. Below are the clubs with 50 members or less:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alabama – AL</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Kentucky - KY</th>
<th>Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dothan Gem &amp; Mineral Club Inc.</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>Kyana Geological Society</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida – FL</td>
<td>Members</td>
<td>Mississippi - MS</td>
<td>Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida Panhandle Gem &amp; Mineral Society, Inc.</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gem &amp; Mineral Club of Deland</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Nature’s Society of Majestic Arts</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulf Coast Mineral Fossil &amp; Gem Club</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>No. Carolina - NC</td>
<td>Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral &amp; Fossil Society, Inc.</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>Cape Fear Mineral &amp; Gem Society</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomoka Faceters Guild</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Sandhills Gem &amp; Mineral Society</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasure Coast Rock &amp; Gem Society</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Tri-State Lapidary Club</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia – GA</td>
<td>Members</td>
<td>So. Carolina - SC</td>
<td>Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athens Rock and Gem Club</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>Emerald City Rock &amp; Gem Club</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Isles Gem &amp; Mineral Society</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Lowcounty Gem and Mineral Society</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meteorite Association of Georgia</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>Pendleton District Gem &amp; Mineral Society, Inc.</td>
<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td>N. E. Georgia Mineral Society</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rome Georgia Mineral Society</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Numbers from past years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Clubs</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Members Diff per year</th>
<th>Clubs Lost</th>
<th>Clubs Gained</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>8145</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>8510</td>
<td>+ 365</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Respectfully,

Jason Hamilton

Lodestar Editor

Dear Mr. President:
I am working with Lori Heinemann to have her take over the editorship of the Lodestar. Thusly, I am resigning as the editor as soon as she is ready. Please appoint her the interim editor and then propose her at the next annual meeting. I have enjoyed my time as editor, but I am aging, and wish to have an orderly transition to a younger person.

SFMS Lodestar
John Rasmussen, Editor

Mayo Educational Foundation President

State Directors

Alabama
There are no major problems in the Alabama clubs. The concerns and issues facing each club deal with the daily operation and functioning of the club. The March report for the St. Petersburg SFMS meeting can almost be quoted in its entirety for the Live Oak SFMS meeting.

The Birmingham Club is focusing and developing its connection with Oak Mount State Park and considering a change of venue for its annual show.

The Dothan Club show in March was very successful with the club's major problem still being replacement of the newsletter editor.

The East Alabama club is working towards developing and updating their workshop. They would be interested in spare or discounted equipment from other clubs.

The Huntsville Society continues to develop their Specialty Groups, is preparing for the annual SFMS Annual Meeting in October, and had another very successful auction.

A Mobile Club representative made the scholarship presentations to the University of South Alabama geology students in April. The club has again committed to a summer camp for juniors.

The Montgomery Club has enjoyed an especially active field trip year with the latest trips to the Alabama University museum and the Cathedral Caverns.

Phil Kaiser
Alabama State Director
Florida

Welcome all to our first Annual Rock Swap. Hope you find that rock, specimen or slab that you did not know you needed or always wanted! I know will find something I can't live without.

Looking forward to talking to Florida clubs about the 10 Point Benefits of SFMS because I have been getting questions of "What can SFMS do for me besides insurance".

Doing a survey of clubs to see how many send members to SFMS Workshops with scholarships

And remind them about the 2019 SFMS Workshop Scholarship drawing. See if they are interested in donating Prizes and have enough tickets to sell.

Seeing if I can get more clubs active in supporting ALAA

But I'm getting it's just lobbyists and Big brother so still working on that.

I have some interest in clubs doing local clean-up with BLM a different type of field trip. Would be good exposure for the clubs. Just a note we have 5 free 2019 National Parks and Monument days

Monday, Jan 21-Martin Luther King, Jr Day
Saturday, Apr 20-First Day of National Park Week
Sunday, September 28-National Public Lands Day
Monday, November 11-Veterans Day

The AFMS Newsletter is sent out to one officer of each club. Checking to see if it is passed on to the other club members and see what interest the clubs have in the AFMS. Also looking into the Florida Clubs talking to each other. For help with shows, field trips, rock swaps, selling items....

Thinking of a website or Facebook page where the clubs could show off, share their newsletters, upcoming shows, meetings. Just thinking.....looking into.....

Also reminding clubs they might need fossil permits and if they need to renew them.

Well I’m going to go through my stash of Precious stones and see if I can part with anything.

See you all soon.

Rosemary van Wandelen
386-479-1509
Rrborzoi@yahoo.com

Tennessee

The Memphis Archaeological Geological Society held their 40th annual show in April 27-28th. Mike Baldwin set up a MAGS table at Fun Day At Chucalissa on April 20th. The club will also hold a Rock Swap on June 1st. The Knoxville Gem & Mineral Society gathered for their spring picnic May 11th with a rock sale afterward. The Kingsport Gem & Mineral Society is gearing up for their Bays Mountain show in July. The
Tennessee Valley Rock And Mineral Society hosted the DMC trip to Ross Creek on March 23rd. The Middle Tennessee Rockhounds held their annual Dig-It Festival April 6th. The club is research incorporating the club. Mid-Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society are offering a number of lapidary classes Fifty Forward Senior Citizens Center this Spring.

Teresa Polly
Tennessee State Director

SFMS Committees

Dixie Mineral Council

DMC Policy Changes: Pending approval by the SFMS Executive Board, the following policy changes will be made to the DMC Field Trip Sharing Program:

1. **Only clubs that are members of the DMC may attend DMC field trips.** In the past, SFMS clubs that carried liability insurance were also allowed to attend DMC trips without hosting a DMC trip. Allowing non-member clubs to attend DMC field trips is not fair to the clubs that host trips, and does not encourage clubs to join the DMC.

2. **Clubs that do not provide their scheduled hosting trip will be dropped from the DMC for 1 year and must meet all requirements to rejoin.** The suspension period under prior policy was 3 months. That period of time was too short and could be abused as a way to extend a club’s hosting interval, or not provide a trip but still benefit from the program.

3. **A DMC field trip cannot be held at a location where another club has already hosted a DMC trip in the calendar year.** This hosting rule is to improve the diversity of field trip locations. Exceptions may be granted depending on individual circumstances.

4. **If the location is a commercial site, the hosting club should request a discount and exclusive access for the day of the trip.** It is acceptable if a discount cannot be negotiated, but a discount should be requested. Exclusive access should also be requested so that the general public and other clubs cannot collect on the same day. These terms make the trip more desirable as a DMC trip versus any other day.

5. **The general public, clubs that are not members of the SFMS or AFMS, and clubs that are members of the SFMS but are not covered by liability insurance are not allowed to collect at the hosted location on the same date as the DMC trip.** The general public and clubs that are not in the SFMS or AFMS are not bound by the AFMS Code of Ethics. This rule is to help DMC field trip leads manage large groups and ensure the safety of all involved. Liability insurance is required for all SFMS field trips, so people who are not covered are not allowed to attend DMC field trips. Note: Because of this rule, easily accessible public locations are not suitable for DMC field trips, but exceptions may be granted depending on individual circumstances.
6. The field trip location should be large enough to accommodate at least one person per DMC member club. This rule for choosing a location to host a DMC trip is to ensure all DMC member clubs have a chance to participate.

7. A member club that has not renewed within 6 months of completing their hosted trip will be suspended from attending DMC field trips and will not receive DMC field trip notifications until they renew. Member clubs must renew immediately following completion of their hosted trip. This rule is to encourage prompt renewal.

8. A member club that has not renewed within 1 year of completing its hosted trip will be dropped from DMC membership and cannot re-apply for membership for another year. There was no rule concerning non-renewal before.

Reminder: Member clubs must renew immediately following the completion of their hosted trip and submit a brief trip report to help encourage other clubs to join the DMC. The more clubs in the program, the longer the interval between hosting duties. There are currently 31 DMC member clubs.

Join: Clubs that are not members of the DMC should consider joining. It is an important benefit of the SFMS because it substantially increases field trip opportunities for members and may attract new members. Details and forms for the DMC field trip sharing program are available at http://www.amfed.org/sfms/_dmc/dmc.htm

Respectfully submitted by Lori Carter, DMC Coordinator

Education Report:

Hello everyone, it is hard to believe it is almost time for our first Workshop of the year at held William Holland in Young Harris, GA. The registrations so far are light. Kris (Director WH) and I have sent mass e-mails out to our membership clubs trying to raise more interest in attending not only SFMS William Holland Workshop and our 2 other SFMS Workshops held at Wildacres in NC.

Costs are as follows:
- SFMS William Holland $425.00
- SFMS Wildacres $395.00

This price includes room, food, class for a WEEK.....instructors lab fees not included.

Please go back to your clubs and help us get the word out about the SFMS Workshops........

A WEEK at one of our workshops will change your life,
1. learn a new lapidary skill (cabs, enameling, chain, silver, wire, casting, metal clay, gem id, cold connections, stone inlay, fused silver, silver-ware jewelry, opals, beading .......

**********I see several classes on the list.......It is hard to pick just one!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

2. meet like-minded people from all over the Southeast

3. have a great time in the Mountains of GA or NC for a WEEK
The relationships that form at these workshops will last a lifetime......I personally have been attending for 20 plus years. Each year I look so forward to catching up with fellow students that I have not seen in a year.

So please come join in on all the FUN for a WEEK....... 

For more info go to sfmsworkshops.com and sfmsworkshops.org

If you have any questions, call or e-mail
Thank you
Lisa Roberts
SFMS Education

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Publications

The Publications committee continues as the position was a standing position. Therefore I volunteered to assist here.

I've initiated an email address for communication. SFMS-Publications@mail.com. This email is for information other than the newsletter. Please add this email address to your contact list. And, yes the email is @mail.com not gmail.com.

The first project was to produce a flyer for the SFMS Rockhound Roundup. This was completed and distributed in conjunction with our SFMS Quarterly meeting notification.

The next project for the SFMS Publications committee is to remind and encourage all of you to communicate to our Clubs via our long standing SFMS Lodestar news Bulletin.

The Publications position will be providing communication via the Lodestar Bulletin, the website, and email notifications... No actual paper documents are printed or distributed as we are in the electronic and virtual age now, and we can reach out to so many more on these platforms.

We are seeking submissions from you at the club level, and the SFMS level. We need submissions for the bulletin to inform our 71+ regional clubs.

The SFMS committees, BOD, and State Directors - are all encouraged to submit information to the Lodestar newsletter each month. The information should be positive, and timely. For instance, a State Representative may provide where they will be traveling in the next month, which clubs they intend to visit. However, this is not to provide reasons for not visiting, excuses, and or other negative comments. For committees, this would be advantageous to keep in regular communication with all. Providing updates, or sharing noteworthy information, new developments, and/or other interesting items.

Our Lodestar bulletin is our monthly opportunity to communicate and provide any information from the SFMS regional level. By simply submitting and providing information to our Lodestar Bulletin, you will help to show value of the SFMS to all of the clubs within our region. Therefore I call on all of you (SFMS Committees, BOD, and State Directors) to provide a small or minimal input to make our Lodestar Bulletin
a healthy newsworthy source to all of our clubs. The SFMS Lodestar email address is: SFMS.Lodestar@gmail.com

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Heinemann
SFMS Publications Committee
Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies
SFMS-Publications@mail.com
www.amfed.org/sfms/
https://www.facebook.com/Southeast-Federation-of-Mineralogical-Societies-317959434999844/

Slide, Video and DVD Library - Jason Hamilton

The Video Library has not received any request for 2019. If you are interested in utilizing any of the VHS's or DVD's from the library, look in the back of the SFMS directory for a list of titles and instructions on using the library. Respectfully, Jason Hamilton

2019 Annual Meeting Host

I have completed arrangements for your Fall Meeting coinciding with our Fall Gem Jewelry & Mineral Show during the weekend of October 11-13, 2019. Our Board and Show Chairmen have approved our full support.

All of SFMS activities will be located at one convenient and very nice accommodation site. The hotel is all single story and compact.
I’ve booked 35 rooms at the Double Tree Hotel, located less than two miles from our Show site, with easy highway access in both directions.
The rate is $102/night, same as I paid in Jacksonville. SFMS members may arrive early at the block rate if they pre-arrange.

With at least 20 of the rooms occupied for the weekend, Continental Breakfast is provided. I’m prepared to offer block rooms to some of our vendors if not enough SFMS attendees choose to stay here. RSVP’s ahead will be appreciated.

We have a large room just off of the Lobby reserved for all of the four meetings, with a divider so that it can be made smaller if desirable, and for the banquet, half can be set up for meeting while the other half is set for the meal. This space for all meetings is provided complimentary with the block of reserved rooms. The menu is set and the food will be excellent. The banquet meal cost is $420 ($14/plate for 30 people). Light food and beverages will be provided for each of the other three meetings.

I plan to attend each of the meetings. For the Saturday morning business meeting, I’ll not be able to stay beyond the gathering since I have duties during the Show. None of the other three meetings overlap Show times so I’ll be present for the duration of each.

Bill Friday
President Huntsville Gem and Mineral Society
Webmaster

The webmaster position is transitioning from Jeff Ursillo to myself currently.

Due to Jeff’s commitment to seeing this Rockhound Round-Up through, he elected to work the transition immediately after this weekend’s events. Jeff has also provided all will be smooth, by ensuring I have the correct software, and he’ll work with me for a short while answering all questions and offering his assistance.

Lori Heinemann

Rockhound Round-up Report

On the Saturday of the Rockhound Roundup we wanted to get an idea how the vendors/participants felt about the weekend thus far. I was fortunate enough to get to speak with 20 of them. I wanted to put together a little letter to pass along what I learned. Let’s start with a few things everyone seemed to agree on.

1. All said they would be back next year.
2. Held in a cooler month (check).
3. Many would like to see more signage along the road (SFMS, clubs and business signs).
4. Promote Socializing! Many suggested they would like the booth walking space cut way down. Even if the rows needed to be longer. That would also benefit the customers as well. The other thing that came up constantly is having a social gathering the first night. A cookout perhaps. It would give everyone a chance to meet and promote mingling throughout the weekend.
5. Advertise, advertise, advertise, start a Facebook page devoted to the event, etc...

That is a list of things that nearly everyone mentioned. Here are a few other things that were brought up that are worth mentioning. There was confusion in the write up about it being a rock swap or vending opportunity. Of course, it was both, but people would like that stated for next year. My suggestion was for us to provide laminated copier paper signs that said something like Rock Swap Ready or Rock Swap Participant that they could hang on their tent. Another great idea to bring in more people was that if a person wanted to vend but was not affiliated with a club that it could be allowed if they were to sign up with one of our clubs that was being represented during our event. It’s a win, win for everyone. On that same topic, bringing in more vendors.... Many would like to see us change having a cut off date. The last thing that was mentioned is giving larger vending spots while we are growing. It is a very large field an everyone realizes as we grow larger things will have to change but for now, the ones that can bring more stuff would like too.

That concludes my report. I enjoyed so much getting to know everyone just a little bit better and looking forward to our next meeting.

Happy day,
Melissa Hill Rader
2nd Vice President SFMS
I. Programs and Archives

From Where Do Our Programs Come?

Hopefully you all know that membership in the SFMS provides access to a great variety of video programs. But do you know where they originate? Most of them come from the American Federation to which we all belong as part of our membership in the SFMS.

The AFMS collects them in one of three ways. First, they have budget that allows them to purchase seven copies of a limited number of educational programs each year. This year, the budget is about $2000. So if they decide to purchase an $80 recommended program for each of the seven regional federations, that's $560 of their budget.

Did you know that you/we can make recommendations? I just made a recommendation for an educational video on Russian Filigree, by Victoria Lansford. I have no idea how many recommendations are made each year, but I'm hopeful!

Another way videos are acquired is through the AFMS Program Competition. Anyone in any of the seven regional federations can create a program and submit it for review. You could create a PowerPoint slide presentation of a field trip your club took, a specific mineral/rock found in your club's area, or an educational process for some lapidary art. Check out: http://www.amfed.org/prog_comp.htm for details.

The bulk production and distribution of the winning programs are supported by the AFMS Endowment Fund.

The third way that we can receive programs is through direct donations from private parties, either to our SFMS or to the AFMS.

The end result is a huge variety of resources available to your club as a benefit of your membership in the SFMS. The full list is at the back of the SFMS Directory which each member club receives each year. Check it out!

Jerri Heer
SFMS Secretary
GEM AND MINERAL SHOWS

June 21 - 23, 2019; Gastonia, NC

Show Dates: June 21st, 22nd and 23rd (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) Show Times: Friday and Saturday: 09-00am – 6-00pm, Sunday 09-00am to 4-00 pm
Show Venue: Gaston VFW Absher-Flowers Post 9337, 3250 W Franklin Blvd, Gastonia, NC 28052
FREE Admittance Minerals and Fossils from around the world Cutting material, Quality Gemstones, Wire wrapping, settings, Geodes, Jewelry, etc. SLUICE a real working sluice, $3, $5 and $10 buckets; perfect for children and adults. Amethyst, Quartz Crystals, Faceted stones mixed at random in buckets; you just might get that special stone or treasure! Hourly Raffles for Prizes, not just a jewelry show. Vendors, please contact Bob Winstanley, Show Chairman, for information: Phone 704-577-3391 E-mail machine66-man@gmail.com

August 12, 2019; Greenville, SC

WESCAGEM
(WESTERN CAROLINA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY)
2ND ANNUAL GEM AND MINERAL
<<< SILENT AUCTION >>>
AUGUST 12, 2019 VIEWING: 7PM AUCTION: 7:30PM TILL...
NORTHSIDE UNITED METHODIST (435 SUMMIT DR., GRNVL.)

- OLD ESTATE STOCK CRYSTALS
- BAGS OF ROUGH ROCKS AND MINERALS
- CUT STONES JEWELRY
- SCRAP SILVER LAPIRATORY EQUIPMENT
  - “SLABS AND CABS” FOSSILS
- MINERALS (SOME RARE) PETRIFIED WOOD
- BOULDER OPAL PETOSKEYS
  - AGATE (ROUGH AND POLISHED)
  - DISPLAY SPECIMENS ROCKS
- BEADS SURPRISE ITEMS
WIDE VARIETY OF MATERIAL FROM AROUND THE WORLD
  - SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

November 9 & 10, 2019; Melbourne, FL

46th Annual Parade of Gems
Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society
45 Dealers displaying & selling Jewelry, gems, minerals, crystals, fossils, tools, rocks, slabs. Demonstrations; hourly prizes; grand prize, Children’s Mineral Discoveries
November 24 & 25, 2019; West Palm Beach, FL

November 23-24, 2019, West Palm Beach, Florida
53rd annual gem, mineral, jewelry, bead and fossil show
Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches
Saturday (Nov. 23rd) 9am-6pm, Sunday (Nov. 24th) 10am-5pm.
South Florida Fairgrounds Expo Center East, 9067 Southern Blvd.,
West Palm Beach Florida 33411.
Over 80 dealers, Door prizes, hourly and other prize drawings, Fossil Dig, Gem Mining, Geode Cracking,
Displays, Demonstrations, Speakers
Admission $9, children under 12 free. Visit website for $1 off coupon. 2 day admission $14. Free Parking
Show chairman, Walter Triche 561-585-2080
e-mail: wtriche@gmail.com
website: http://www.
January 10 – 12, 2020; Largo, FL

Pinellas Geological Society, Inc. presents the:
44th Annual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show & Sale
Join Us at the
Central Park Performing Arts Center
105 Central Park Drive, Largo, FL
Jan. 10—12, 2020
Fri. & Sat. ~ 10 a.m. –to– 5 p.m.
Sunday ~ 12 Noon –to– 5 p.m.
$2.00 ADMISSION
AGES 12 AND UP
Fun for All Ages

2019 SFMS Officers

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<tr>
<th>President</th>
<th>First Vice President</th>
<th>Second Vice President</th>
<th>Secretary</th>
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<tr>
<td>Reggie Bolton</td>
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<td>Jeri Heer</td>
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<td>4781 Bear Creel Rd.</td>
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<td>Sterrett, AL 35147</td>
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<td>(205) 419-9455</td>
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<th>Membership</th>
<th>Treasurer</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jason Hamilton</td>
<td>Barbi Beatty</td>
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<td>Craig Hamilton</td>
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2019 SFMS State Directors

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<th>Alabama</th>
<th>Florida</th>
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<td><a href="mailto:kaiserpw@att.ne">kaiserpw@att.ne</a></td>
<td>Rosemary Van Wandelen</td>
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<td>3051 Keyport St.</td>
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<td>Kim Cochran</td>
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<td>2695 Van Ct.</td>
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<td>Teresa Polly</td>
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<td>6115 Atkins Rd</td>
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<td>Knoxville, TN 37918</td>
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<td>(865) 258-0795</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:teresapolly@bellsouth.net">teresapolly@bellsouth.net</a></td>
<td>Open</td>
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2019 SFMS Committee Chairs

BULLETIN CONTEST: Mark Easterbrook, 6701 Dorchester Road, Apt 1007, North Charleston, SC 29418 803-276-4016 asgardsgc@earthlink.net

BOUNDARIES: Buddy Shotts, P.O.Box 427, Lucedale, MS 39452 601-466-0690 buddynrebashotts@bellsouth.net

CONSTITUTION/BY-LAWS: Lisa Fitch, 10033 Kingston Rd, Bay St. Louis, MS 39520 228-216-4684 lapidaryarts@hotmail.com

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SAFETY: Bob Green, 116 Sycamore Dr, Marietta, SC 29661 864-836-5896 greentop@bellsouth.net

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10 Points - Benefits of Belonging to SFMS

The Lodestar will be providing brief synopsis of what the SFMS offers (or will offer in the future) for each of the 10 points. Please review the President’s Message and articles submitted for details.

This issue of the Lodestar is highlighting one of the below Benefits of Belonging to the SFMS:

I. Programs and Archives
II. Mayo Educational Foundation
III. Club Development
IV. Interclub Connections
V. Federation Sponsored Club Insurance
VI. Field Trips
VII. Youth Program and Support
VIII. Lapidary Education
IX. Competitive Cases and Judges
X. National Affiliation

The 10 Points Benefits of Belonging is a live document (will ever change and improve) and of which - will call for action items and others to assist! Please consider helping to make a difference and volunteering...