

Rock Talk

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June 2017



Rock Talk

June Meeting Program

Denise and Scott Forward, who are teachers at The William Holland School of Lapidary Arts, will be giving a presentation at the June club meeting. Also, Denise will be bringing some of her jewelry to show, and Scott will be talking about identifying minerals.

The rock cutting, grinding, and polishing equipment can be used by club members after the presentations. We will have the usual snacks and beverages and the 50/50 raffle.

Graves Mountain Field Trip

As reported by Judith Birx

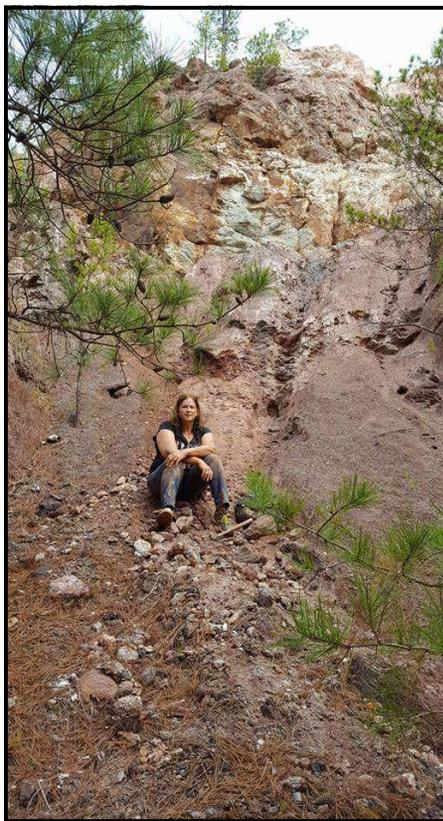
After months of organizing and encouraging fellow club members to attend the Graves Mountain field trip, Judith Birx, her husband Charles, her son, Chuck, and Judith's brother-in-law, Dan arrived at their rented cottage at Elijah Clark State Park, Lincolnton, Georgia on Thursday, April 27th. They were very pleased with the spacious accommodations.

"The trip to Graves Mountain was great... unbelievable, it was a blast."

Other club members that participated in the field trip were Jenna and Brian Swartzmiller, Jan Gathj, who arrived on Friday, and Mark and Leslie Moore, who arrived on Saturday.

It rained Thursday night, which was good because it exposed rocks and made for easy digging, yet the area wasn't muddy.

There was moderate traffic getting to the entrance of the mine Friday morning, so they had no difficulty parking. Judith and the group were told by Junior to go to the upper tier of the mine, and he was right, they found quartz and iridescent (rainbow) hematite. After leaving a donation, they walked past the vendors and got a ride by golf cart to get further into the mine to look for minerals. By afternoon there were more people on the mountain, but there are so



Judith on a rock pile at the mine.

many areas to collect that it wasn't a problem.

Jenna, Brian, Jan, and Judith got to the mountain early (around 7:00 AM) on Saturday. Again they walked past the dealers and were given more helpful information from Junior as to where they could find lazurite. They found quite a bit of lazurite dotting both quartz and granite. Dan spent most of the day hammering on a large bolder to remove chunks of the blue azurite and its parent rock.

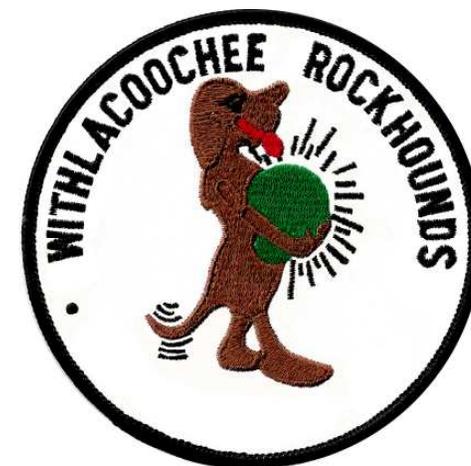
It was possible to find many good specimens by simply looking on the ground, or one could

Continued on next page

The Cover Photo andalucite crystal

Andalusite is an aluminum nesosilicate mineral with the chemical formula Al_2SiO_5 .

As a young Rockhound I found several specimen of andalusite in a gneiss parent rock while climbing Mt. Washington (New Hampshire) on the Tuckerman Ravine Trail. Mike Stone, editor



Hernando County, FL

Next Meeting, Wednesday, June 14 7:00PM at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center

Graves Mountain from page two

dig or pound away for minerals. Minerals found by Judith and her group were: rainbow quartz, iridescent hematite, and pyrophyllite. Judith's son, Chuck, found a particularly nice piece of iridescent hematite.

According to Judith, all of the people at the mine were very nice, both those who were digging, and those working there. Many people offered helpful information, and some people offered money to buy specimens. Those planning to go to Graves Mountain and would like to bust out their own specimens will need to bring large sledgehammers and chisels. Judith said she had a great time though she left with bruises and scrapes from working so hard to extract minerals.

There were several vendors selling many beautiful minerals, but their prices were high.

Perhaps there will be more interest by club members in going to the mine next year.



A view of the mine.



Leslie Moore looking for a way to get her 30 pound iridescent hematite rock from between two boulders in the main pit.



Judith and her son Chuck working specimens out of the rock.



Quartz with hematite



pyrophyllite



Quartz with specks of lazurite



Typical boulders at the mine.

Graves Mountain Photos



Leslie Moor with her carrier, looking south-east toward the main pit.



Leslie Moore near the drop-off into a run off holding pit at the bottom of the eastern side of the main pit.



Jenna Swartzmiller



Part of the vendor area



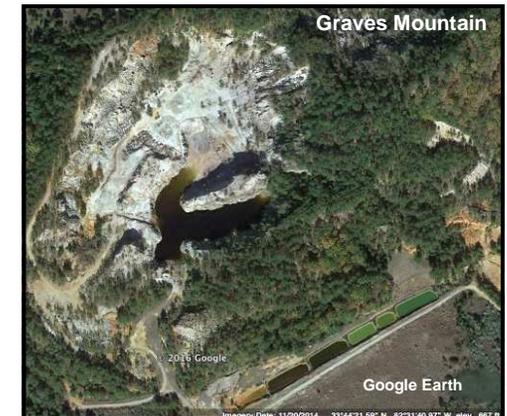
Typically colored boulders



Iridescent hematite



The approximately thirty pound piece of iridescent hematite after part of it was removed for transportation to the Moore's home.





Club secretary Melodye Steverson makes exquisite sterling silver, pewter, and copper jewelry, often highlighted with beautiful cut and polished gemstones. Visit <designsbymelodye.com> to see Melodye's current offerings.



Melodye Steverson



Michael Steverson



Club members wishing to show and tell us about their businesses, collections, projects, or other hobbies, contact editor, Mike Stone. n1ve@amsat.org



May 13 Florida Museum of Natural History Field Trip

Our Field Trip to the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville on May 13 was fantastic! We all met at the museum lobby and had our photographs taken beside the giant Mammoth skeleton. We explored the Florida Cave Exhibit and learned about karst formation and our limestone geology. We then toured the Invertebrate and Vertebrate Fossil exhibit discussing the many fossil sites discovered here in Florida. The University of Florida fossil collection is one of the top ten collections in the United States. We finished our tour in the archeology exhibit where we learned about the prehistoric people of the west coast of Florida featuring the Timucua, Calusa, and the Seminole cultures.

Our group included two new members Mr. Tommy Blackman and Alana Thevenet. Also attending were Mark and Leslie Moore, John and Patti Motzer, Linda Anderson as well as Dave and Suzanne Letasi. We had a wonderful time at Harries Seafood Restaurant in down town Gainesville after the Museum Tour. I will plan a Field Trip to the Silver River Museum in Ocala and the Mulberry Phosphate Museum in Mulberry, Florida in 2018, if there is any interest.

Recently a fossil Ceratopsian dinosaur tooth was discovered in northern Mississippi in the Owl Creek Formation. This site dated to the late Cretaceous Period around 66 to 68 million years ago. The tooth is very similar to Triceratops that is commonly found out west of the Mississippi River.



During that time period a sea separated east North America from the west. Prior to this find it was believed that horned dinosaurs did not inhabit the east due to this early sea as a barrier or there was a somewhat different habitat excluding their range. These were believed to prevent their migration eastward past the Mid Continental Sea that is now the Mississippi River Basin. Because of this one small tooth our understanding of the Late Cretaceous Period has changed dramatically. You may see the article about this find at [msn.com/en-us/rare dinosaur tooth](http://msn.com/en-us/rare-dinosaur-tooth).



Barbourofelis and Teloceras

(PS. The label on the antelope jaw should read "horn Core" from the photograph on my page in the May newsletter)
Keep collecting!



Cat Mask

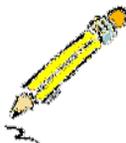


Field trip participants

Secretary Report

by

Melodye Steverson



Withlacoochee Rockhounds Monthly Club Meeting Minutes 5-10-2017

- The meeting was called to order by club president Ralph Barber at 7:22 pm.
- We all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silent prayer.
- There was one new member to recognize; Tommy Blackman.
- There were no guests in attendance.
- Dave Letasi made a motion to accept the minutes of our April meeting as printed in the newsletter, it was seconded by Dave Davis and passed by all members.
- Club treasurer Janet Wheeler gave the Treasurer's Report.

Old Business

- Judith Birx gave a report about the field trip to Graves Mountain, GA. She said it was "a blast!", and suggested all members consider going next time. Mark Moore said he had a great time on the trip and told of his experiences there. Linda Spaulding added information regarding her trips to Graves Mountain, and gave tips on working the mine.
- Dave Letasi reminded all members of the filed trip planned at the Museum of Natural History in Gainesville, FL, the following Saturday.

New Business

- Linda Spaulding announced that Denise and Scott Forward, who are teachers at The William Holland School of Lapidary Arts, will be giving a presentation at next month's meeting. Denise will be bringing some of her jewelry to show, and Scott will be talking about identifying minerals.
- Next month's refreshments will be provided by Janet Wheeler and Dorwin Skinner (who was

volunteered by proxy).

- Dave Letasi made a motion to adjourn the meeting. John Motzer seconded the motion and it was passed by all.
 - The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 pm.
- Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Melodye*

Upcoming Shows

October 6, 7, and 8, 2017

Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society
Rock, Mineral, Gem, and Jewelry Show
Florida National Guard Armory
Orlando, FL
www.cfmg.org

October 13, 14, and 15, 2017

Knoxville Gem and Mineral Society
Kerbela Temple
Knoxville, TN
www.knoxrocks.org/gemshow.html

November 4 and 5, 2017

Tampa Bay Mineral & Science Club
Plant City Strawberry Festival Expo
www.tampabayrockclub.com

November 18 and 19, 2017

Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches
South Florida Fairgrounds Expo Center East
West Palm Beach, FL
www.gemandmineralsociety.org

December 1, 2, and 3, 2017

Withlacoochee Rockhounds of Hernando County
Veterans Memorial Park, Hudson, FL
www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com

January 12, 13, and 14, 2018

Pinellas Geological Society, Inc.
with the SFMS Quarterly Meeting
Largo Cultural Center, Largo, FL
www.PGS.Rocks

March 2, 3, and 4 2018

Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society—48th Annual
Show
Minnreg Building, Largo, FL
www.sgams.com

Monthly Meeting Kitchen Duties

In an effort to spread the kitchen duties at our monthly club meetings, Katie Schmidt has come up with a sign-up sheet so members can choose when they would like to take over the kitchen duties.

Duty Descriptions

- Arrive by 5:30 PM
- Gather two large Rubbermaid containers from the storage room. The containers are inside the large white wall cabinet, on the bottom shelf on the left side of the cabinet.
- A bowl to contain ice for drinks is either in the same cabinet or located in a cabinet in the kitchen.
- Plug in the electric strip bar in the kitchen, and then plug in the coffeemaker.
- Prepare the coffeemaker. Make eighteen (18) cups for a regular meeting. Use one scoop per two cups of coffee. Start the coffeemaker. *Coffee usually takes 15 to 20 minutes to brew.
- While coffee is brewing place coffee cups, sugar, creamer, and stirrers around the coffee maker.
- Set out waters/drinks and ice bowl. (Ice is in the freezer.)
- Set out disposable saucers, forks, and napkins for desserts.
- Tongs and a large knife (for cutting cake) are in the kitchen drawers.
- Set out the donation can and the framed donation sign.
- After the meeting, clean up and return all supplies from where they came.

Thank You

2017 Kitchen Duty Sign-up

June 14, 2017.....	Dorwin.....	John S
July 12, 2017.....	John M.....	Patti
August 9, 2017.....	Ron P.....	Phyllis A
September 13, 2017.....	Bill S.....	Leslie
October 11, 2017.....	Gary S.....	Harry K
November 8, 2017.....	Jan G.....	Jenna S

Looking for Specimens in a Kentucky Washout

by Mike Stone

After a week of preparation in Florida for our yearly return to Kentucky, and after a few days in Kentucky, unpacking, organizing, repairing, and replacing vehicle and equipment batteries, we needed a break. So we jumped (not literally) into Peg's Mule and rode out into the field across the road in search of rocks, minerals, and fossils. The runoff from heavy rains over the winter and early spring created gullies where the soil washed away, leaving chunks of interesting rocks plainly visible. No digging was required, just carefully looking on the ground and trying to have an open eye



Looking for rocks and fossils in a washout before the field was planted with corn.

and mind, so as not to ignore all but the type specimens we thought we'd find. After about an hour of rock hounding, we came up with a few specimens that we considered keepers: sea life fossils, oolitic limestone, iron sandstone spherical concretions (moqui balls), massive chunks of strange water worn chert, flint, mudstone, druzy quartz, and peculiar, deep brown and shiny rocks that appear to be made of iron. We also picked up a tenacious layer of red mud that clung to our feet and took several minutes, using the force of water from a hose nozzle to remove.

As an added attraction, Peg picked up a couple of old glass items, no doubt washed into the gully from a vintage garbage dump. One is the glass top from a

coffee percolator, and the other is an interesting glass stopper with a big 57 cast on the top. We found an identical glass Heinz catchup bottle stopper on EBay selling for \$20.42.



A few of our finds from the field washout.

While out on the field we rode around, inspecting both new and old sinkholes. Some are up to thirty feet deep, showing how far down the reddish colored soil extends along this wide valley floor. The newer sinkholes, created within the last several months, are only a few feet deep and a few feet in diameter, but in time, runoff will carve them deeper and much wider into the clay soil.



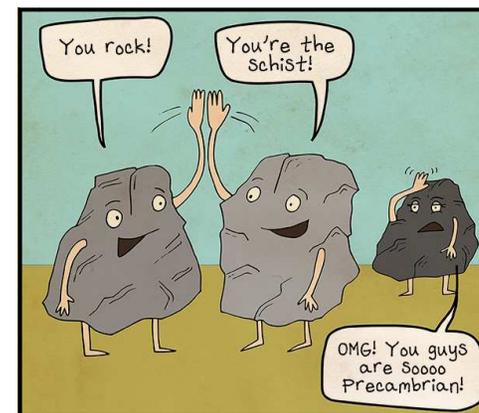
One of the smaller sinkholes.

Fake Rock?



by Mike Stone

The other day Peg and I were in the Rural King parking lot when Peg spotted an interesting looking rock with vivid blue markings. I picked it up and gave it a quick once-over and thought the blue color was some type of mineral. I put it in the back of the car and brought it home. A day or two later I set the rock in the bright sun and looked at it more closely. First I saw that the rock was made up of tiny sea life fossils, making it unlikely that it was also contained a deep blue mineral. Looking more closely I could see a few areas where the blue color had been rubbed or knocked off, exposing the grayish limestone. There is no doubt that the blue color is nothing more than a stain on the rock. It doesn't appear to be a paint, it's more like metalworking layout fluid (Dykem) was spilled on it. Oh well, it looks good in the flower garden.



Withlacoochee Rockhounds



Bench Tips by Brad Smith

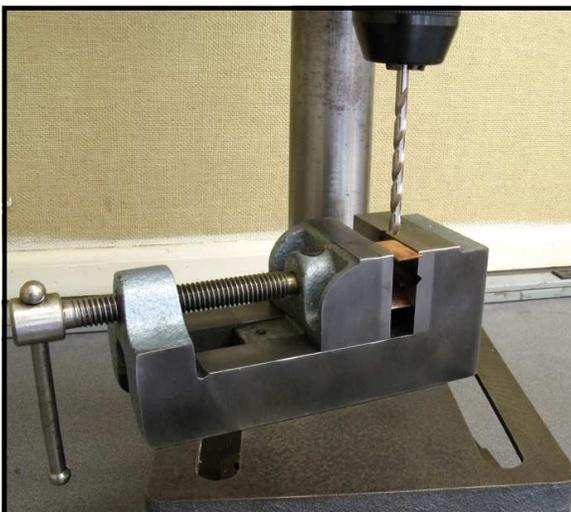


Bench Tips for Jewelry Making and Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry are available on Amazon

Drill Press Vice

A drill press vise is a versatile tool used to hold a workpiece securely and in precise alignment. It reduces risk of working with high-power motors, large size drill bits, and the high heat generated in the drilling operation. The vise can be clamped to the drill press table if needed and is quite handy for use at the bench to hold things for sawing or riveting.

You can find drill press vises at stores that carry machine tool supplies. My feeling is that the best ones are made from steel and cast iron, rather than plastic. In particular, I like the ones with V grooves cut into the jaw plates. That lets me hold a punch straight upright or hold a rod horizontally. To find a supplier, search on "drill press vise" at sites like micromark.com scdirect.com enco smallparts.com grizzly.com sears.com



Drill press vise

Dental Gold

You might think that a couple pieces of dental gold would be valuable, but if you only have a small amount, it can be a problem. Sending it to a refiner is expensive for such a small amount of metal. I made the mistake of thinking I could melt it and roll out my own sheet. However, the trace metals that dental gold contains to make it a good material for teeth will cause it to crack if you try to forge or roll it out as a sheet. I ruined my whole ingot.

So what to do with a couple gold crowns? A reasonable alternative is to try incorporating the metal into your jewelry. If you have enough material to do a casting, that's probably the best use for dental gold. If you're not into casting, try melting it on a solder pad and while molten, divide it into small pieces with your solder pick. Then re-flow each piece to make little gold balls for use as accents on your designs. The balls can also be planished a bit to make small discs or struck with a design stamp to add texture.



Welcome New Members

Welcome new Withlacoochee Rockhounds club members: **Tom Blackmon**, Brooksville; **Valentine Kalavsky**, Inverness; **Alana Thevenet**, Tampa

Tuesday Workshop at the

Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens' Center

The Withlacoochee Rockhounds is giving workshops on wire wrapping (stones), chain making (jump rings) and possibly other related skills at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens' Center in Spring Hill. **The June workshop will be held on June 13th (not the first Tuesday of the month) from 9:00 AM until 12:00 noon. We will have a presentation by Denise and Scott Forward who will talk to the group about the offerings at William Holland School of Lapidary Arts.** The cost per workshop is \$1.00. To participate in the workshops, one must be a member of the *Withlacoochee Rockhounds*, which covers dues to the *Weeki Wachee Citizens Club*. Contact number: 352-587-1702

**Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens' Center.
3357 Susan Dr.
Spring Hill FL 34606**

For more information call Judith at: 352-587-1702

May Workshop

We had a video about how and why to use different tools and then we made a five strand weave into a Celtic bracelet, with and without beads or stones.



Celtic Bracelet

Next Meeting, Wednesday June 14th 7:00 PM at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center

GAIL'S GIFT HUT
 USA FLEA MARKET
 AVE 3, BOOTH 7
 JEWELRY, CRYSTALS, ROCKS,
 FINDINGS AND MUCH MORE
 gailsgifthut@gmail.com

Business Card Size Advertisement

Our club can use the income generated by selling business card size advertisements in our newsletter. If you know of anyone who might benefit by advertising in the *Rock Talk*, please contact them and let them know that we can post their ads for ten dollars (\$10) per month. The *Rock Talk* is distributed to more than only our club members, it is available on our site and has the potential for being distributed to over one thousand readers each month.

Contact newsletter editor Mike Stone at:
n1ve@amsat.org
603-524-0468

Withlacoochee Rockhounds Has a New Address

Our official mailing address is:
Withlacoochee Rockhounds
 PO Box 5634
 Spring Hill, FL 34611-5634

Show Us Your Stuff

We're always looking for information for the *Rock Talk*. Club members would enjoy seeing other members' rock cutting and polishing equipment, display cabinets, projects, and favorite specimens. Take a photo and send it to your editors along with a description and we will be glad to include it in our newsletter.

Mike Stone
n1ve@amsat.org

Your Favorite Specimen

We are always looking for something of interest for our club members. We're sure that many club members have specimens in their collections that would be of interest to others in the club. If you would send us a digital photograph of your specimen we can publish it in the *Rock Talk*. A bit of information such as what it is, when, and where you found it would be great. If you don't have a digital camera, bring your specimen to a club meeting for others to see, and perhaps someone at the meeting could photograph it for the next issue of *Rock Talk*.

Rock Talk editors: Mike Stone and Peggy Burns
n1ve@amsat.org

Newsletter on our Website

The latest issue of *Rock Talk* will be posted on our website about a week before the upcoming meetings. It can be downloaded to your computer as a PDF file. If any club members currently receiving the *Rock Talk* via email would prefer to download it from the website, please let me know and I will discontinue sending it to you by email.



Our Website

www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com

For Sale Items

Club members can post appropriate club-related type **for sale** items in the *Rock Talk* free of charge. Contact your editors by the 25th of the month to have your items posted in the next issue.

Mike Stone
n1ve@amsat.org

What is It?

Can you identify the specimen below?



Answer in next month's *Rock Talk*.

Last month's "What is It" was
Spudumene



Withlacoochee Rockhounds is now on Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/withlacoocheerockhounds1/?ref=page_internal



Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Membership Dues Form

Please complete the form and bring it with you to the December or January Withlacoochee Rockhound meeting. Attach your membership dues to the form.

Annual Dues: \$15.00 for an individual member or \$25.00 for a family

Primary Member

Please Print

Last name

First Name

Renewing members check here if no change in information below.

Ad- ditional family members:

Last name

First Name

Last name

First Name

Last name

First Name

Last name

First Name

Street Address:

City:

State:

ZIP

Phone Number(s):

Email Address:

Please give this completed form along with your check for dues made out to "Withlacoochee Rockhounds" to club secretary Janet Wheeler at the club meeting. Or mail the form and your check to Withlacoochee Rockhounds, PO Box 5634, Spring Hill, FL, 34611-5634

Rock Talk



His Nibs

Diamonds and Jewelry
Insurance Appraisals
Gemstone Identification
Professional Repairs

Jerry Johnson, G.G.
Graduate Gemologist-GIA
(352) 573-0830

12470 Spring Hill Drive
Spring Hill, FL 34609

Hours: By Appointment Only

5-15

Your Business Card Size Ad in Rock Talk

The cost to advertise your businesses in *Rock Talk* is \$10.00 per month. . Contact Mike Stone to set up an ad in both the club newsletter and our website. It will benefit both your business and our club.

RALPH BARBER

STONE JEWELRY
bottle wind chimes

Hernando County Farmers Market
US 19
Spring Hill Fl
352.200.6852
barbersbloomers@hotmail.com

4-15

Withlacoochee Rockhounds
PO Box 5634
Spring Hill, FL 34611-5634

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Purpose

We are a non-profit organization whose purpose is to foster interest and promote knowledge of minerals, gems, fossils, lapidary arts, and earth sciences, through regular meetings, informative programs, workshops, and field trips. PLUS our annual gem and mineral and jewelry show. Membership is open to anyone sharing such interests.

Dues

Dues are \$25.00 annually for a family and \$15.00 annually for a single member

Club Meeting Location and Time

Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center, 3357 Susan Drive in Spring Hill. The meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM.

2017 Club Officers

President.....	Ralph Barber.....	352-200-6852.....	barbersbloomers@hotmail.com
Vice President.....	Dorwin Skinner.....	352-610-9422.....	twoantiques2@yahoo.com
Secretary.....	Melodye Steverson.....	352-683-9496.....	melodye@designsbymelodye.com
Treasurer.....	Janet Wheeler.....	727-938-3644.....	ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com
Rock Talk Editors.....	Mike Stone / Peggy Burns.....	603-524-0468.....	n1ve@amsat.org
Club Web Master.....	Mike Stone.....	603-524-0468.....	n1ve@amsat.org
Mailing Reporter.....	Janet Wheeler.....	727-938-3644.....	ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com
Program Coordinator.....	Melodye Steverson.....	352-683-9496.....	melodye@designsbymelodye.com
Education Chairman.....	Judith Bix.....	352-587-1702.....	judithbix@hotmail.com
Publicity Officer.....	Dorwin Skinner.....	352-610-9422.....	twoantiques2@yahoo.com

Board of Directors: Rovie Alford, Ralph Barber, Judith Bix, Dave Letasi, Melodye Steverson, Dorwin Skinner, Mike Stone, Janet Wheeler