

Rock Talk



November 2018



Rock Talk

November 14th Meeting Program

Three or four club members will explain collecting and also show specimens (rocks, minerals, and fossils) that they found over the summer.

Also we will have the 50/ 50 . Snacks and beverages will be available.

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The October monthly club meeting underway.

Meeting photos on next page

Cover Photo

Bauxite, the ore of aluminum

Gem Show Help Needed

Help is needed for gem show on November 30th and December 1st from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM and December 2nd from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM. Members can work in shifts, so any help at any time during the show will be appreciated. Contact John Mozter at

352-835-7330

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

A 22-pound Meteorite Doorstop

A Michigan man who had a doorstop for thirty years, decided to have it tested at a university. After testing, it was



determined that it is a meteorite, made of 88.5% iron and 11.5% nickel. Weighing twenty-two pounds, it is the sixth-largest recorded find in Michigan, and potentially worth \$100,000.

For double verification, a slice of it was sent to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, which validated that it is a meteorite.

The meteorite arrived on Earth sometime in the 1930s, according its owner, who obtained it in 1988 when he bought a farm in Edmore, about 30 miles southwest of Mount Pleasant. While touring the property, the man spotted the rock propping open a door and asked the farmer what it was. The farmer told him it was a meteorite, and came with the property.

The farmer said that it had come down onto the property in the '30s and it made a heck of a noise when it hit. The farmer and his father found the crater and dug out the still-warm meteorite.

The new owner lived on the farm for few years, and when he moved, he took the mystery rock with him. For the past thirty years, he has used it as a doorstop and sent it off to school with his children for show-and-tell.

At this point the meteorite can either be sold and shown in a museum or sold to collectors and sellers looking to make a profit.

The Smithsonian and a mineral museum in Maine are considering purchasing the meteorite for display.



President's Message

Judith Birx



Well, we are off and running!

Our gem show is coming together well. John Motzer and Ralph Barber have taken on the heavy and exhausting task of organizing another potentially great gem show. I am happy to see that so many new members are putting much effort as well. I am asking for more volunteers for the gem show. We need help, particularly to run the entrance table, collect money, and handle the numerous door prize drawings each day. We need help on all days, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, which is November 30th through December 2nd. Even if you are available during part of the time, your help will be appreciated. Please come to the show and help out. We need you.

Our gem show funds the rock cutting, grinding, and polishing equipment, as well as repairs and supplies for the equipment. The gem show funds our Christmas meeting, our free classes, our monthly programs, the purchase of equipment such as our new TV, the LCD projector, as well as the USF endowment, and hopefully our new scholarship program for the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts. We need your assistance, so please consider putting some time aside during our gem show dates. You can contact John Motzer at 352-835-7330 or Ralph Barber at 352-200-6852. They will tell you more about what is needed in greater detail. Thank you in advance for contributing to the success of your club.

One more thing I would like to clear up.

We are not required to support the roof fund at the Weeki Wachee Senior Center. We have made donations to the fund and we have allowed Carol from the senior center to request donations at club meetings. However, it was brought to my attention that some feel it is our obligation to contribute to the roof fund at

\$40.00 per member. WE DO NOT HAVE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ROOF FUND. NO ONE IS REQUIRED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ROOF FUND. If you feel the need to do so, you can contact Carol.

Thanks again for all that you guys do to

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Jewelry • Fossil • Mineral • Gem Show

Nov. 30th, Dec. 1st, & Dec. 2nd, 2018

9am-5pm




\$1.00
OFF ONE
ADULT
ADMISSION

Must present coupon

FEATURING

- Artisan Jewelry
- Gemstones
- Fossils
- Lapidary Equipment
- Fluorescent Mineral Displays
- Minerals
- Education Displays
- Exhibits
- Hands-on Activities for Children
- Famous Diamonds
- Aaron's Breast Plate

ADMISSION

Adults: \$3:00 • Teens \$1:00 • 12 and under free • Free Parking

Children's Activities Daily

Veterans Memorial Park • 14333 Hicks Rd • Hudson, FL 34669

Show Chair: Ralph Barber (352) 200-6852 • Show Info: Judith Brix (352) 587-1702







WithlacoocheeRockhounds.com

Secretary's Report



by
Melodye Steverson



Withlacoochee Rockhounds Monthly Meeting Minutes 10-10-2018

- The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by Club resident Judith Birx.
- We all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silent prayer.
- There were two new members to recognize; Ginny Steverson and Paula Plinic. There were no guests in attendance.
- Dave Letasi made a motion to accept the minutes of our September meeting as printed in the newsletter, seconded by Mark Moore. Passed by all members.
- Treasurer Janet Wheeler gave the Treasurer's Report and stated we have 49 vendors signed up for the gem show.
- Mark Moore made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Dave Letasi. Approved.

Old Business

- Club president Birx stated that we would now be voting on a raise in dues for 2019, and asked for a motion.
- Rovie Alford made a motion to increase the club dues for 2019, seconded by Melodye Steverson. All members voted by ballots. Ballots were counted by Secretary Steverson and former President Ralph Barber. Yes votes, 31. No votes, 5. Membership dues will increase to \$20 per

adult and \$5 for children under 18 years of age.

- Club president Birx stated that we still need members to help with the nominating committee. Any member who wants to help guide the future of the club, contact a Board member so you can be placed on the ballot in December. So far, members who have been added to the ballot include; Mark Moore for Vice Presiden, and Lynn Walters for Board of Directors. We need one more Board member and nominees for Treasurer and Secretary.
- The Beginners Silversmithing classes will start next Thursday at 5-8 and run for 3 weeks. Cost is \$40.

New Business

- There will be no Board meeting next week. Instead, a Gem Show Committee meeting will be held. Board members should attend. Tuesday night at 6:30.
- Gem Show Committee co-Chairman, John Motzer, spoke about what is still needed for the gem show. Volunteers are needed for the front desk, the children's tables, and most other positions. He said there were sign up sheets at the front table and urged members to volunteer. He said Dave Davis, Dave Letasi, and Linda Spaulding are scheduled for displays and demonstrations. John told Mike Steverson he wanted to talk to him about setting up the TV to playing presentations.
- President Birx stated that we need everyone to help to make this show a success.
- Next month's refreshments will be provided by Lauren Bell, Karen Fernandez, and Roberta Oldread.

- Melodye Steverson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Roger Wheeler seconded, passed by all.
 - Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.
- Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Mel-*

Next Board of Directors Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held at the Weeki Wachee Senior Center at 6:03 PM on November 20, 2018

What is It?

Can you identify the specimen below?



Answer in this *Rock Talk*.

Last month's "What is It?" was

Azurite



Sapphire crystal



This fall season has already been busy and exciting as ever. Mark and Leslie Moore invited me to provide a program about fossil collecting at the Yankeetown School in Levy County, Florida. The program also explained the process of how scientists preserve fossils in a lab setting. Mark and I started planning this program last spring. Finally on October the fifth Mark, Leslie, Sue, and I taught Ms. Raven Dorminey and Ms. Liz Horner's fourth and fifth grade classes about how to collect and repair Ice Age fossils that were recovered from the Withlacoochee River. We created a collection of samples of the types of fossil turtle shell sections, and each was given to the students to repair. Then the type sample was given to their class to be used to identify their repaired fossil. Each type of tool, typically used for fossil repair was demonstrated for the reconstruction of their own specimen. White glue was handed out. Then students learned the technique of molding aluminum foil around the base of a fragmented fossil. The foil acted as a "third hand" to secure their specimen for stability while it was being glued. Mark donated the type specimen display case as a permanent exhibit for their school.

We also collected enough fossil echinoids from the Vulcan Mine and at Yankeetown coastal park to enable each student to acid clean one and then take it home. Because we used an acid (white vinegar), students were given rubber gloves for protection and a toothbrush to clean their echinoid's fragile surface. Of course we accomplished this part of the class exercise outside under the walk

way covered pavilions. Altogether we had fifty-three students in one classroom setting. The students were excited during the class and were thrilled to act like a paleontologist and then take home fossils that they restored. During the class, the students were fascinated about dinosaurs, and had many questions about them. Mark and I suggested that we do a dinosaur program for them this coming spring. Our Yankeetown school students did a fantastic job of repairing fossils and are all budding scientists.

Mark and I are working on an exhibit to be displayed at their school that will compare the specimens of a modern black bear's skull and jaws to a giant cave bear jaw. Mark will be displaying it early next year. We had a great time at the Yankeetown School and I would like to thank Leslie and Sue for all their help guiding the students. Mark and Leslie have been mentoring Yankeetown School for many years in the field of science and other educational needs. This fossil class program was clearly a teamwork project. Thank you Ms. Dorminey and Ms. Liz Horner for inviting us to your wonderful school.

Club members, everyone in our rock club has the potential to share their knowledge about gems, minerals, rocks, and fossils. We have many educational resources to offer students and others who are interested in geology around our community. One of life's greatest pleasures is sharing our interests and information on rock collecting with others. Happy rock hunting and see you all at our next meeting. As Mark says "Stay Safe Out There".

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



Student cleaning an echinoid



Student cleaning an echinoid



Classroom lecture at Yankeetown School

The David Letasi Report from page six



Dave explaining how fossils are cleaned and the tools that are used to clean them



A student cleaning an echinoid



Students reconstructing their fossil turtle shell from the Withlacoochee River

Your Favorite Specimen

We are always looking for something of interest for our club members. We're sure 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

Tuesday Workshop

at the

Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens' Center

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 workshops are normally on the **first Tuesday of the month from 9:00 AM until 12:00 noon**. 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*

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

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

Next Workshop

November 5th at 9:00 AM

Jewelry class will be working with colored polymer clay to making pendants and beads. The cost for material is \$5.00 per participant.



**Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society's
45th Annual**

Parade of Gems



**SATURDAY & SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 10 & 11, 2018
10 A.M. TO 5 P.M.**

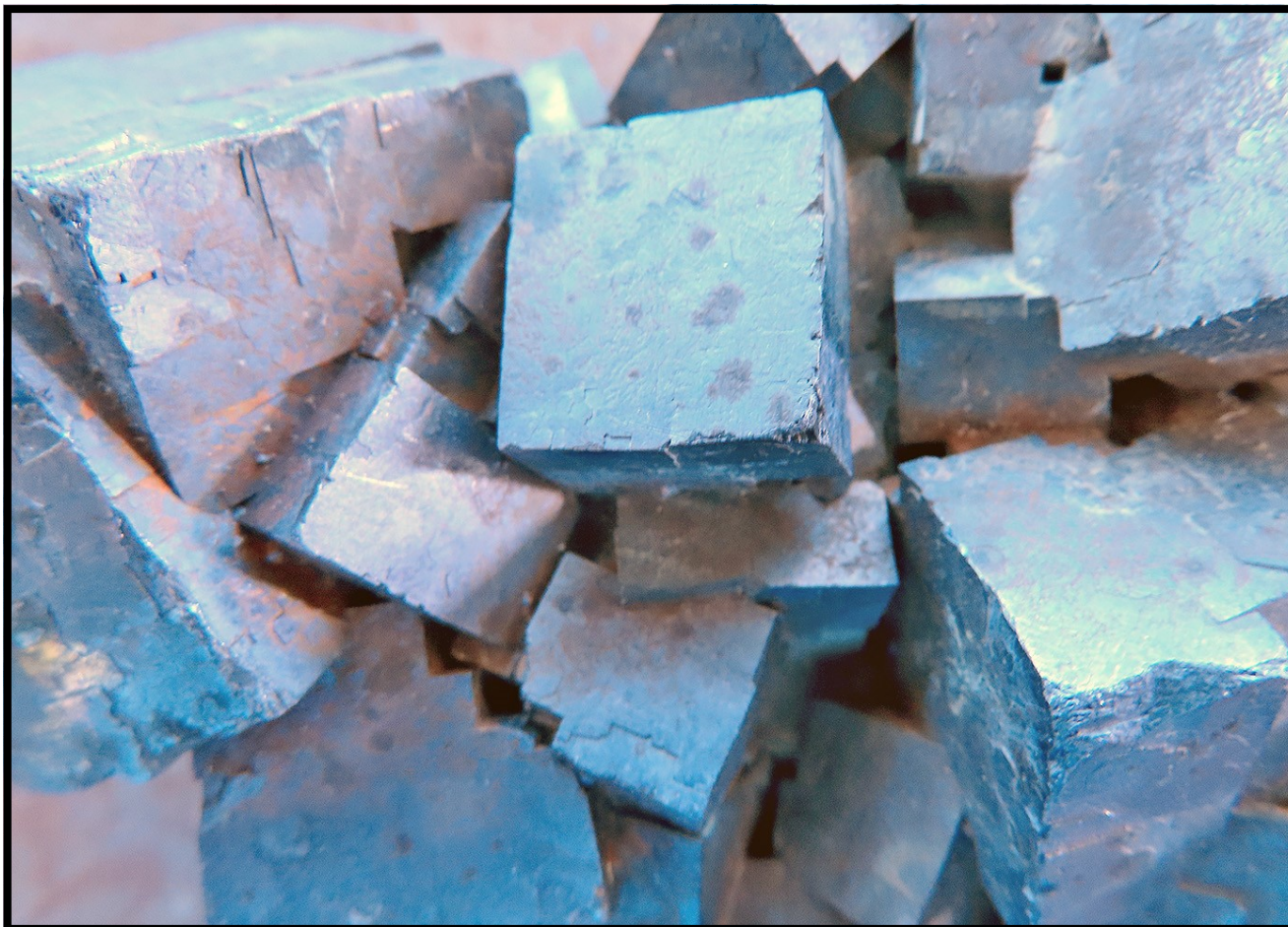


**MELBOURNE AUDITORIUM
625 EAST HIBISCUS AVENUE
MELBOURNE, FLORIDA 32901**

Adult Donation: \$5 (\$4 with this flier)
Kids <12 admitted free with paid adult

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY & CHRISTMAS SHOPPING TOO!

Unique hand-made jewelry & gifts
Gemstones/Beads/Supplies for the DIY person on your list
Rocks/fossils/minerals for the collector
Kids hands-on workshop
Demonstrations: stone cutting, wire wrapping, stamping, etc.



A cluster of galena crystals from our collection. Galena (PbS) is made up of lead and sulfur and is lead ore.

editor

Our Website

www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com

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

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

Upcoming Gem and Mineral shows

11/10/18-11/11/18-Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society Show & Sale, Melbourne Auditorium

11/17/18—11/18/18-Gem and Mineral Society of the Palm Beach, East South Florida Fairgrounds

11/30/18-12/2/18, 48th Annual Montgomery Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show, Garret Coliseum

11/30/18-12/2/18-Withlacoochee Rockhounds 44th Annual Jewelry, Fossil, Mineral, & Gem Show, Hudson Florida Veterans Memorial Park Gymnasium

12/1/18—12/2/18-Miami Mineralogical & Lapidary Guild Evelyn Greer Park

1/11/19– 11/13/19-Pinellas Geological Society 3 Annual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show, 105 Central Park Drive, Central Park Performing Arts Center

2/2/19—2/3/19-Central Brevard Rock and Gem Club Kiwanis Recreation Center

Withlacoochee Rockhounds



Bench Tips
by
Brad Smith

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

Small Parts Containers

I am always on the lookout for small containers to use for holding all those little parts and tools we deal with in making jewelry, especially since I'm always traveling to classes and workshops.

My latest find are some plastic vials about 15 mm (a little more than a half inch) in diameter and 75 mm (three inches) long. The best part is that they are free. The vials are used in the doctor's office to draw blood samples. They cannot be used after their expiration date, and are thrown out. On my last doctor's visit, I asked the nurse if they had any expired vials. She replied, "How many do you want?" and tried to give me 400. We settled on 200.

The ones I have are called "Vacutainers", but there are probably many other names. They are clear plastic with a rubber stopper and a paper label all ready



Vacutainers

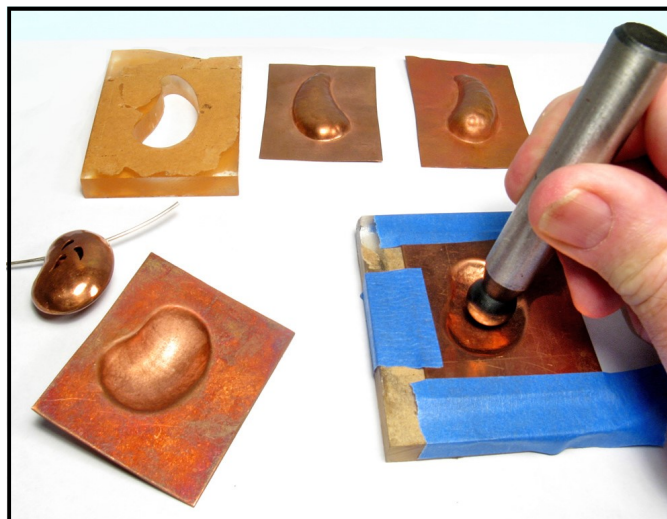
to write on. I find them really handy for small parts like jump rings, prong settings, small drills, nuts and bolts, faceted stones, and precious metal filings.

Source for Plastic

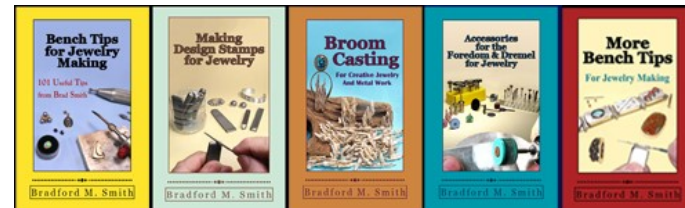
We often use plastic in our studios, like for a single part die or for a template, so it's handy to have a small supply along with the rest of your sheet, wire, copper, and bronze. But we seldom think to buy and stock plastic.

The plastics store I go to has a scrap bin out back where they give away their scraps. I usually opt for the 3/8 and 1/2 inch thicknesses for use as forming dies, but there are always a variety of sizes and colors to choose from including thin sheets that are good for templates.

If you can't find a shop with Google or Yellow Pages, do a search on Ebay.com for scrap plastic by the pound.



A piece of plastic being used as a forming die.

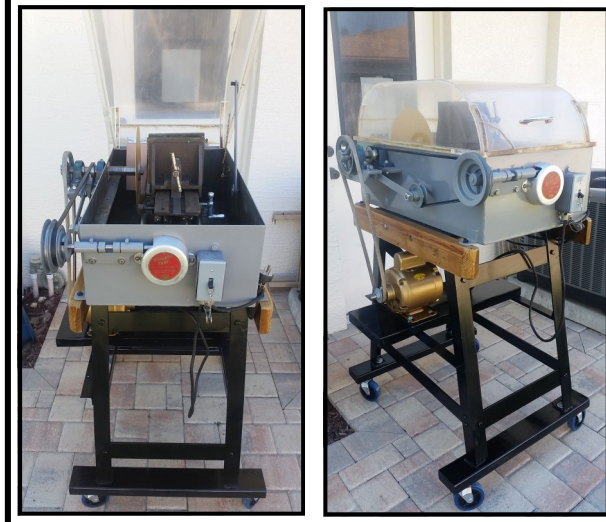


Learn New Jewelry Skills With Brad's
How-To-Do-It Books
Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith

For Sale

Highland Park 14 inch saw, model M 3. The saw has been 95 percent refurbished with new belts, new bearings, new blade, and new casters. It has been repainted and re lubed. **\$950 or best offer.**

Darryl Johns
mr.gotzrocks@gmail.com
847-420-8705



Welcome New Members

Welcome new Withlacoochee Rockhounds club member **Paula Palinic**, Weeki Wachee and **Ginny Steverson**, Spring Hill

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Membership Form

2018

Complete this form and bring it with you to the Withlacoochee Rockhound meeting.
Attach your membership dues to this form.

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

Please Print Clearly

Primary Member

Last name _____

First Name _____

Renewing members check here if no change in information below.

Additional family members:

Last name _____

First Name _____

Check if under 18

Last name _____

First Name _____

Check if under 18

Last name _____

First Name _____

Check if under 18

Last name _____

First Name _____

Check if under 18

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Email Address: _____

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

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Our monthly club meeting is held at the
Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Club,
3357 Susan Dr., Spring Hill, FL 34606, on
the 2nd Wednesday of each month
from 7:00 to 9:00 PM



www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com

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.

Advertisers Needed

Please help us find advertisers for the *Rock Talk* and our website. The club can use the monthly income. Both the *Rock Talk* and our website have more exposure than only club members. Any club member who takes out a yearly ad, gets a **free club membership**.

Contact club treasure Janet Wheeler: ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com
or send to:
Withlacoochee Rockhounds
PO Box 5634
Spring Hill, FL 34611-5634

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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.

2018 Club Officers

President.....	Judith Birx.....	352-587-1702.....	judithbirx@hotmail.com
Vice President.....	Kelly Johnson.....	352-688-9399.....	KellyMineralsFossils@aol.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
Gem Bag Coordinator.....	Gloria DuPont.....	352-848-5199.....	ddupont@tampabay.rr.com

Board of Directors

Rovie Alford (2018)
Ralph Barber (past president)
Judith Birx (president)
Linda Spaulding (2020)

Melodye Steverson (secretary)
Dorwin Skinner (2020)
Mike Stone (2019)
Janet Wheeler (treasurer)