

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

2018



Rock Talk



October 10th Meeting Program

The business portion of the meeting will include a vote to increase the 2019 club dues. Our program will be a video brought in by Melodye. We will have our usual 50/50 auction and door prizes. Snacks and beverages will be available. Members and visitors often bring specimens to our meetings to show and tell.

In This Issue

- The September Club Meeting
- September Club Meeting Photos
- Club President's Message
- Tuesday Jewelry Class Photos
- The David Letasi Report
- An Excellent Fossil Find
- What is It?
- Denver Show
- The Oldest Known Animal Fossil
- Yooperlite
- What is it?
- Bench Tips
- Club Membership Form

Cover Photo

Crinoid fossil from Kentucky. The photo was taken with my new Canon XS 740. It has a minimum macro distance of 1 cm (.39 inch).

The units on the scale at the top of the photo are 1/16 (.0625) inch



When I first arrived for the meeting, I thought they all were looking for me, I heard several people say "There he is". The feeling of being missed was short lived because the next thing I heard was, "There's the cake", as I was followed through to the refreshment area. The raffle table was filling with lots of goodies. I hoped that I would be among the winners. There was one rock on the table that caught my eye. It was very colorful and it was unusually shaped. I was looking closely at it when John Fusco explained it was a rock that he had artfully created. One of our newest members, Seaanna, had some of her collection to show. I was assured that she had a lot more at home. It must have been jackpot day at the Vulcan Mine when Lynn and John were there, they both had rare finds. John had three Phymotaxis mansfield echnoids. I have been to the Vulcan Mine

many times and have never found one. Lynn must have heard the jackpot bells ring when she made her find, a Calappilia Brooksi crab. That is unheard of. She not only found one, but it was in a plate that had three more, making a total of four. If I had been her I would have gone right out and bought a lottery ticket. She contacted a museum to see if they were interested, and you'd better believe they were because they didn't have one specimen. Wow, some people have all the luck. I wondered if she had bought raffle tickets recently? Linda Spaulding had very nice oval crinoid specimens.

Next it was on to the boring stuff as Judith called the meeting to order. Lucky for us she makes it short and to the point.

Mark Moore was next up with his presentation of "What's hot and what's not". He managed to take what could be boring and turn it into a mind boggling subject. Everyone was eagerly listening to him. When he was finished it seemed like everyone had questions for him. I believe we should have Mark do another similar presentation. Don't look for the cake next month because I will be on a CRUISE.

Meeting photos on next page

Next Meeting, Wednesday, October 10th at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center

September Meeting Photos

Photos by Dorwing Skinner



A fossilized crab found and the Vulcan Mine by Lynn Walters



Oval shaped crinoids brought in by Linda Spaulding



Specimens on the raffle table



Rock made by John Fusco



Phymotaxis mansfield echnoids brought to the meeting by John





Sea Anna and her collection.



Fossil crabs from the Vulcan Mine

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

President's Message



Yea! I am back from my vacations. I had a wonderful time. I visited my son Michael and his wife Jamie. They have two cats and three dogs. Wow! Anyhow we all had a terrific time. Yes, I rockhounded and mined while I was there. Michael and Jamie live in Caldwell, Idaho. I went to Succor Creek, Oregon and I have to tell you we cleaned up. We also went to Silver City. Now that was a challenge to get to, but well worth the effort. We also traveled to the Spencer Opal Mine. Now this place was wonderful. It is in Idaho but it's four hours from where my son lives. I drove there and back in one day...I am a true Rockhound. We found opals with flashes of fire in them. Well after a week of being back home in Florida, I visited New York for the first time. I was there for about five days and though I was not even close to finding rocks in this part of the state, I'm sure you guessed it...I managed to find some. The last day in New York I came across a wholesale warehouse only four miles from where I was staying on Long Island. Needless to say, I was absolutely thrilled. The name of the wholesale warehouse is Aurora Mineral Corp., and it was filled with minerals, rocks, and fossils, you name it. It was the largest collection I have seen.

Well enough about me. Everyone seemed to get through my absence fine. Now we have to get to work. The gem show is right around the corner. John Motzer is leading the committee along with Ralph Barber. They are working very hard to put together an awesome show. We have a new television on the way, so hopefully the October movie will be seen and enjoyed on the fifty-inch screen. We will be voting on an increase in dues as well in October. Please attend the meeting because we can't accept absentee votes. Don't forget in December we will be voting for the board and officers positions. There are many events happening during the next couple months.

Monday Morning Jewelry Workshop Photos

by Judith Birx



Withlacoochee Rockhounds

PO Box 5634 Spring Hill, FL 34611-5634







Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Secretary's Report



by Melodye Steverson

Withlacoochee Rockhounds Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Date 9/18/2018

Attending Board members; Judith Birx, Melodye Steverson, Janet Wheeler, Ralph Barber, Dorwin Skinner. Also in attendance; member Lynn Walters.

The Board meeting started at 6:30 pm and was held at the Weeki Wachee Senior Center.

• President Judith Birx opened the meeting by presenting the agenda;

• There will be a vote at the monthly meeting in October to increase the yearly club dues starting 2019. Club secretary Steverson presented the ballot she had created and it was approved.

• The upcoming officer/board election was discussed. We have a candidate for vice president. Dorwin Skinner will not be returning to the Board. We must have someone to speak to people about running for office.

• The proposed William Holland School scholarship was discussed in length. Some qualifications suggested were;

- Prospects must have been a club member in good standing for two years.
- The prospect must agree to teach at least

four classes about their learned craft during the following year.

• The club pays tuition only. The student must pay lab fees and provide their own transportation,

• Prospects must come before the Board of Directors to explain why they are a good candidate, and also declare their willingness to fulfill the requirements of the contract.

• There might have to be a lottery of qualified prospects.

• The gem show update as the Board sees it;

• Janet Wheeler gave John Motzer the form to get the Certificate of Insurance from the SFMS for the gem show site.

• Ralph Barber asked Janet Wheeler to send him a list of the vendors that have signed up.

• Dorwin Skinner said it's going well.

• There was much discussion regarding the club providing food during the show. The general consensus was that the club needs to be protected from jeopardy and fines because of selling food without a license. This will be researched further and a decision will be made by the next Board meeting.

• Member Lynn Walters presented a sign-in form from Vulcan Mine. She said our members had been signing up on the Tampa Bay Mineral Club form and Sal Mendoza stated that we had to have a form of our own, with our club name listed on it. Lynn will alter the sign-in sheet she had, to have our club name on it. The Board approved.

• Dorwin Skinner presented his research into purchasing a large screen TV for the club. He found a fifty-inch TV at Walmart for \$199. The Board decided this was a good purchase. Dorwin Skinner made a motion to purchase the fifty-inch TV for \$199. It was seconded by Ralph Barber and approved. Club treasurer Janet Wheeler will pick up the television.

• Club president Birx played a voice mail from Mike Stone, addressed to the Board members, regarding his opposition to raising the price of the club dues.

• Melodye Steverson made a motion to end the meeting. It was seconded by Ralph Barber and approved by all.

• The meeting ended at 7:34pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by club secretary, Melodye Steverson

Welcome New Member

Welcome new Withlacoochee Rockhounds club member **Ginny Steverson** from Spring Hill.

Fossiling

As we were preparing for our six-month absence from our Kentucky home, Peg and I went to our favorite fossilcollect site at a road cut on Route 313 near the Fort Knox property. Katie Schmidt and Linda Spaulding asked us to bring them crinoid fossils, which are abundant in and below the ledges along the twenty plus year old road cut. *editor*



Next Meeting, Wednesday October 10th at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center



This last Thursday August 30th Linda and Bill Spaulding took me to the Cocoa Beach Dinosaur Store and Museum. In the Museum's wonderful gift shop I noticed a beautiful eight-inch diameter Ammolite fossil shell in a gorgeous red iridescent color. As I studied it with amazement and bliss. I came to its label and description. As no surprise it came from Alberta Canada, the premier location for these wonderful treasures. As I looked down to the bottom of the label, is saw the price. Immediately sticker shock set in, \$12,000! Clearly these are some of the most sought after and valuable invertebrate fossils ever collected. These wonderful prehistoric Cretaceous age cephalopods, most commonly Placenticeras meeki, were creatures that swam with giant saber toothed fish, early sharks, and giant Mosasaurs. These rare fossils are covered in the mineral aragonite formed from the decay breakdown of the shell's surface. The minerals calcite, silica, and pyrite are commonly associated with its composition. They vary commonly in color from green to red and occasionally from blue to purple. These properties allow the refraction of light on its surface to reflect an opal-like fluorescent that is, in itself, an incredible brilliant jeweled surface.

Fossil ammolite is sporadically found on the eastern side of the Rocky Mountain Anticline and occurs in the Bearpaw Formation that stretches from Alberta Canada through Montana and then merges with the Pierre Shale Formation to the east in South Dakota. Next to this jewel of a fossil were all sorts of individual fragments that were transformed

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

into broaches, necklaces, and rings. Each would have fit nicely in the Tower of London display of Great Britain's Crown Jewels. Any seriously minded mineral and gem collector would be proud to have one in their possession. It was great just to see such a wonderful specimen. Maybe someday I will have one just like it.

Everyone stay safe out there while collecting your next treasure and have a great fall season. See you all at our next meeting.



Ammolite jewelry



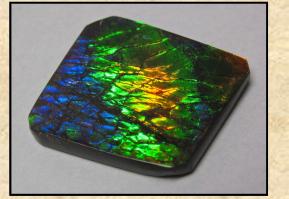
Fossil ammolite shell fragment from Alberta, Canada



Purple lacenticeras meeki ammolite



Red and green placenticeras meeki ammolite



Fossil ammolite shield from Alberta, Canada

Withlacoochee Rockhounds



An Excellent Fossil Find By Wanda Lynn Walters

Club member Lynn Walters was collecting at the Vulcan Mine in Brooksville on August 18, 2018 when she found the specimen in the photo above.

I posted the picture of my Vulcan Mine find on Facebook, bragging about our awesome field trip and next thing I knew I got a private message from a guy named Phillip Whisler, telling me he had shown it to Roger Portell, Collections Director, Division of Invertebrate Paleontology at the Florida Museum of Natural History and that Roger wanted to contact me ASAP. I gave Phillip my phone number and Roger called me the next day. He said I had a keeper for sure and the museum would like to make a cast of it because he could see associated claws. I was told that they actually find carapaces often, as they are widespread, but when associated with claws, it really sweetened the deal. I jumped at the chance to donate my specimens and he appreciated the gesture. He also told me there is more than one crab in the specimen. So far my count of carapaces is five! He asked if I was willing to bring them to the museum so he can look at them and also give me a backstage tour of the facility. I will be meeting with Roger to donate the carapaces once he returns from a teaching trip in early October."

Here are the details of my find:

- Kingdom: Amimalia
- Phylum: Anthropoda
- Subphylum: Crustacea
- Class: Malacostraca
- Order: Decapoda
- Infraorder: Brachyura
- Genus: Calppilia Brooksi
- Found: Vulcan Mine, Brooksville, FL
- Ocala Limestone Formation (~55.8 to ~33.0 mya)

Details of the hunt

I stayed in the main pit all day with my son. Saul Mendoza (our mine contact) was able to "rough" up a fresh cut in the pit floor, and it was loaded with fossils. I dug out large pieces of lime rock in which to practice. I peeled back the layers and what I unearthed was amazing. I found this piece early and I almost didn't take it because I had to dig most of it out of the pile and it was heavy. I rinsed it off on the tailgate and there was the crab. But to be honest, I thought it was just a weird shell until I got home and started researching about it. I had just narrowed the identification down to Calappilia when Phillip messaged me. On the phone Roger confirmed the fossils as Calappilia Brooksi.

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 October 2nd at 9:00 AM

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Weeki Wachee Senior Citizen Center Crafts and Treasures Sale

Saturday, October 27, 2018 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

There will be a craft and unique treasures sale at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizen Center, 3357 Susan Dr., Spring Hill. Shop for plants, baked goods, jewelry, baskets, quilts, soaps, pottery, home decor, rocks, minerals, fossils, with miscellaneous vendors, and much more. Hot food and a raffle will also be available. Free admission. Proceeds benefit the Weeki Wachee Senior Center roof replacement fund. Please come and show your support for a worthy cause while having a good time and getting a jump on your holiday shopping.

POC Louisa Amato (352-684-6315)

Use Our Website

I try to send an email to all members, with a link to the *Rock Talk* before the jewelry workshop, which normally is a week and a day before the club meeting.

If you don't receive an email with a link to the *Rock Talk*, you can access our website for the newsletter, club meeting program, and the project for the next Tuesday morning jewelry workshop.

Also, previous *Rock Talk* newsletters can be downloaded from our website. They have been posted from June 2016.

www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com Editor/webmaster

For Sale

14" Lowertone Slab Saw Slightly used, original paint, steel stand. \$800 Rovie Alford 270-999-9144



Our Website



Answer in this Rock Talk.

Last month's "What is It?" was Spinel





Next Meeting, Wednesday October 10th at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Big Items at the Denver Show

Ralph Barber recently went to a show at the Clarion Hotel in Denver, CO. Here are a couple of photos of interesting but rather large pieces that could be purchased. This was an unlisted show with about forty vendors.



Ralph and a carved rose quartz skull weighing 1520 pounds.



Seven and a half foot tall plaster horse at the show

The Oldest Known Animal

Recently I read an article in CNN Online about the identification of the oldest known animal in the geological record.

The creature is called Dickinsonia and it is confirmed that it lived 558 million years ago, making it the earliest known member of the animal kingdom. This animal was in existence 20 million years before the Cam-

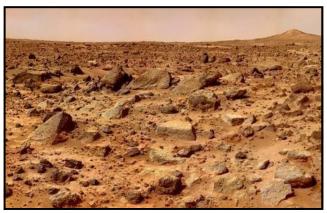


558 million year old Dickinsonia fossil

brian Explosion Event, when major animals began appearing on the fossil record.

The Dickinsonia fossil was discovered on a remote Russian cliff face near the White Sea in 1947. The ovalshaped fossil was so well preserved that scientists could extract molecules of fat. The fossil fat molecules that were found prove that animals were large (over four feet long) and abundant 558 million years ago, millions of years earlier than previously thought. *editor*

Wouldn't you like to collect rocks on Mars?

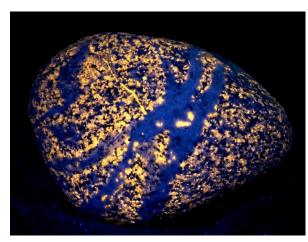


Next Meeting, Wednesday, October 10th at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center

Yooperlite a Fluorescent Rock

CBS had a recent article about Erik Rintamaki's "mind blowing" discovery on a Lake Superior Beach. He picked up a rock on the beach that was glowing. Lava like color was seeping out through the lines in the small rock. All of his research about glowing rocks provided him with no information. So Rintamaki named the rock "yooperlite" after Yooper, native inhabitants of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

He figured there were more glowing rocks on the beach, so he went back at night with a black light, which helped him spot the glowing rocks. He started selling the rocks on line and was contacted by the University of Michigan about selling some of his rocks for them to study.



Yooperlite glowing under black light

After studying the rocks, both the Michigan State and the University of Saskatchewan determined that Rintamaki discovered a new type of rock. The scientific name is syenite clasts containing fluorescent sodalite (Yooperlite Sodalite Syenite).

Rintamaki is giving fifty dollar a person yooperlite tours on the beaches along Lake Superior. He takes groups out near dusk and they use black lights to search for yooperlites for about four hours. Everyone on the tours finds yooperlite.

He also sells yooperlites for thirty two dollars a pound, and he bought a machine that can buff them into perfect, smooth orbs. *Information sent to us by Dorwin Skinner*

After researching yooperlite, it appears that the rocks only glow under a black light. Yooperlite glows best under long-wave UV (black light) at a wavelength of 365 nanometers.

The minerals in yooperlite are sodium, aluminum, silicon, chlorine and oxygen, but it contains no structural sulfur, which likely results in the fluorescent properties of the mineral.

Additional information: https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Tour-Agency/Yooperlites-205165993433467/

https://www.ebay.com/str/Yooperlite-rocks? _trksid=p2047675.l2563 editor

For Sale Items

Club members can post appropriate clubrelated 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 <u>n1ve@amsat.org</u>

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

Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society Inc. Fall Show

We are a non-profit 501(C)3 educational organization and are hosting a Rock, Mineral, Gem, Jewelry and Fossil Show on October 5th, 6th & 7th, 2018 at the Florida National Guard Armory, 2809 S. Fern Creek Ave., Orlando, FL 32806. Show time: Fri. 1pm to 6pm, Sat. 10am to 6pm and Sun. 10am to 5pm. Venders offering beads, minerals, gemstones, jewelry, fossils, artifacts, rocks, cabochons, etc. Silent Auction, Door Prizes, Demonstrations, Family Activities, Scavenger Hunt. Admission: Adults \$5, Kids \$2, Scouts in uniforms free. Website: www.cfmgs.org. Contact: President Salvatore Sansone 321-278-9294 or ssfossilhunter@aol.com. Thank you. If you have any questions, please e-mail or call me at 407-816-1229. Betty Sumner Secretary Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society, Inc.

Withlacoochee Rockhounds



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

Spot Sanding Brush

Sometimes you might have a little discoloration or debris to clean from the bottom of a pocket on an area with a coarse textured surface, or from a small space between two soldered objects. Finding something to get into those close areas is always an effort in creativity.

One tool I have for these special occasions is a glass fiber spot sanding brush. It is great for cleaning a small area and doesn't leave deep scratches, only a faint satin finish.

There are probably several manufacturers of these pens, but one is the "PrepPen Adjustable Sanding Pen" selling for US \$10.95 at Amazon. You can see it at:

<u>http://www.amazon.com/Prep-Pen-PrepPen-Adjustable-Sanding/dp/</u>B000J18RT6/



Silver Solder From Scrap

Sometimes you need a lot of silver solder to complete a piece. For me, it was when I was trying to join several castings. But silver solder is expensive, so I found a way to make my own from scrap, with a little help from a penny.

The first step is finding out what is in a solder. A search through the reference books (Tim McCreight or Erhard Brepohl) or a Google search will turn up recipes such as:

HardAg	80%	Cu	13%	Zn	7%
MediumAg	70%	Cu	20%	Zn	5%
EasyAg	63%	Cu	30%	Zn	7%

The silver (Ag) and the copper (Cu) are easy to come by, but finding zinc (Zn) has always been my problem until I found out that our pennies are almost all zinc. According to Wikipedia a US penny minted after 1982 weighs 2.5 grams and is 97.5% Zn and 2.5% Cu. So all I had to do is add a penny to some copper and a pile of silver scrap.

I chose to use Sterling scrap, so I adjusted for the amount of copper in it as well as the amount of copper from the penny. Here's what I used for components of medium solder:

the	Sterling, 36.9 grams
and	Copper, 9.35 grams
und	Penny, 2.50 grams

Melt silver copper first in

a melting dish, mix them well with a carbon rod or titanium solder pick, add the zinc (penny) last and mix again. Then pour the alloy into a small mold. The zinc is added last because melting it causes some to vaporize, and the fumes are a safety problem (They are a gray-green color.). Be sure to have good ventilation.

To check that the melting temperature of the solder is correct (medium), I put a sample of the homemade solder on a piece of copper sheet along with a known sample of hard, medium, and easy solders. I then heated the plate from the bottom and watched as the easy melted first, next the medium and the homemade melted, and finally the hard solder melted.

Additional notes on converting the ingot to sheet, strip, or wire form.

If you have access to a rolling mill, that will be the fastest way to proceed. Either roll out the ingot into a sheet and cut it into strips or roll it out as wire if your mill has grooves. If you don't have a mill, all you have to do is forge out the ingot into a rough sheet of the gauge you'd like and then cut thin strips with bench shears. Be sure to anneal the sheet every so often as you forge it.



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

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

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
Primary Member
Last name First Name Renewing members check here if no change in information helow
Additional family members:
Last name First Name Check If
Last name First Name Check if
Last name First Name Check if Check if Inder 18
Last name
Street Address:
City: State: ZIP
Phone Number(s):
Email Address:
Give this completed form along with your check for dues made out to "Withlacoochee Rock- hounds" 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



Hernando County

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.

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

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

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
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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)