



# Rocky Mountain Federation News

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September 2007

The official publication of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. The RMFMS is a regional member of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. The Rocky Mountain Federation News is issued ten times a year (except June or July). It is a privilege of membership of the RMFMS and cannot be exchanged by the Editor for individual club newsletters from other regional Federations

From the Editor: For those of you keeping track, the August issue of the Rocky Mountain Federation News claimed it was Issue 8, this was incorrect, it should have said Issue 6.

## Update on Arizona West Coast Area

Submitted by Harry Kilb, Arizona PLA

LAKE HAVASU CITY, AZ: Rockhounds and other patrons of federal Public Lands along the Lower Colorado River received notice in July, that the Resource Management Plan for the Lake Havasu Field Office of the federal Bureau of Land Management had been approved by state and federal BLM offices and will be in effect for the next 15 years. The RMP writing process for this region had been ongoing for the past five years, with major input from public interest groups on the ground here.

The Lake Havasu Field Office of the Arizona State BLM covers some three million acres centered on Lake Havasu, along the Lower Colorado River, including parts of California adjacent to the river. The LHFO was formed several years ago from portions of the Needles, CA., and the Yuma and Kingman, AZ, service areas of BLM. Its old RMP consisted of programs from 1982 for those offices. The update recognizes the tremendous population growth of the area and its attendant user influx thru this undeveloped desert, riverine and mountain area that, until 1970, contained only abandoned mines, small ranches and old ghost towns. The economic impact on the newer communities in the area was estimated at \$20,000,000 per year due solely to recreational users of these public lands, by the Arizona State Parks Agency.

The 2007 RMP for the LHFO was a conservative change from the former status, with few new user restrictions (none for mineral collectors), although some inclusive wilderness areas were enhanced slightly. Of major importance, however, was the official "mapping" of Off Highway roads and trails, some of which had existed since 1860 but few of which had ever been officially recognized by federal and state road authorities. Much of the field work, done by using GPS instruments and programs, was accomplished by volunteers from the public who turned over their mapping data to BLM for codification. Their maps were accepted into the new RMP as part of the Travel Management section, and will be the basis for any future modification. The first public input review will start next fall on the roadways around the Bullhead City-Laughlin area, as part of a continual review of the RMP by BLM.

Earlier this summer, the Arizona State BLM announced another reorganization of its offices in the area, creating the new "Colorado River District" from the former Lake Havasu and Yuma Field Offices. The new District Offices are located at Lake Havasu. However, each Field Office, here and elsewhere, will create and manage its own updated Resource Management Plan for its territory. The Yuma and Kingman Field Offices are currently in the initial phases of their RMP deliberations.

### What's in this issue ...

- President's Message ..... 2
- Vice-President's Message ..... 3
- Quick Tips for Editors ..... 3
- From the Editor ..... 3
- ACROY ..... 4
- Jr ACROY ..... 4
- Medical News ..... 4
- Treasurers Corner ..... 4
- ATTN: ALL Non-Profit Clubs ... 4
- New Club ..... 5
- Polishing Chalcedony Roses . 5
- Texas Garnets ..... 5
- The Best Day ..... 5
- Shows & More ..... 6
- 2006-2007 Officers ..... 7

### Thank you,

**Richard Jaeger  
Linda Jaeger  
Harry Kilb  
Stan Nowak  
Gene Maggard  
Howie Whiting  
Kay Atkinson  
DeLane Cox  
and everyone else**

*for your contributions  
to the September issue  
of the Rocky Mountain  
Federation News.*

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## DEADLINE

Deadline for submissions to the bulletin are due the first day of the month prior to the publication date, i.e., the deadline for October is September 1.

## President's Message

*By Richard Jaeger*

I need to make a correction to my letter of last month. **Don Rathert** should be the South Dakota/Nebraska State Director.

There are a few items to report from the last month. I am happy to announce that Executive Committee unanimously accepted the application of the Florence Gem & Mineral Society of Florence, Arizona to join the Rocky Mountain Federation. Currently their mailing address is: **Dan Capps**, 3827 N. South Dakota Ave., Florence, AZ 85232. His phone number is 520-868-9636 and his e-mail address is [dancapps@desertwisper.com](mailto:dancapps@desertwisper.com). **Dan** is the Vice President. The president is **Clancy Bolander** at 520 E. Barrel Cactus, Florence, AZ 85232 and the Secretary/Treasurer is **Shirley Gossert** at 202 E. Ocotillo Dr., Florence, AZ 85232. The club has 18 adult members.

At the same time I am sorry to report that the Gates Rock & Mineral Club of Englewood, CO has decided to disband effective December 31, 2007. Their club has been in existence for 48 years and we certainly hate to lose them. I have enjoyed visiting with their members at the Denver Show in September. There were circumstances which arose and made it very difficult to try and continue; hopefully many of their members will join other Denver area clubs and continue to be involved in the Rocky Mountain Federation in that way.

The Executive Committee unanimously voted a \$50 memorial to be paid to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation in the name of **Keith Price**. We learned of **Keith's** passing when at the show in Roswell and there was a tribute to him in the last RMF Newsletter. Keith had served as treasurer from about 1992 to 2006 and was certainly dedicated to the well being of our Federation. He will be missed.

Hopefully I will be able to attend the Denver Show this year and be able to visit with many of you from that area and around the Federation.

## Vice-President's Message

*By Stan Nowak*

The season is upon us again with the beginning of the school year. Contact your local schools to offer classes or sessions to the science teachers. Just seeing the expressions on the faces of our future generation is very fulfilling and satisfying. All it takes is a spark in any of these students to ignite a desire to be a future geologist or even a rockhound. Don't forget the home schoolers, they are learning and our future as well.



If your club is sponsoring a show or swap, try to have a kids' area or some kind of activities for the youngsters. I am sure it will stay busy.

We are still looking for volunteers to host Federation Shows in the future.

**Richard Jaeger** will be passing the RMFMS President's hat to me during our show in Enid, OK on September 28-30. Everyone is invited to our show. If everything works out like we hope, we will start having shows biennially.

In next month's newsletter, I will try to expound on what I would like to accomplish this next year for the federation.



## QUICK TIPS for EDITORS

By Linda Jaeger  
RMFMS Club Publications Chair

(Reprinted from RMFMS Newsletter 9/06)

If you have a question (or suggestion) about editing or writing or the bulletin contest or something related, send it to me by email: [LjgrAlg@aol.com](mailto:LjgrAlg@aol.com) or at home address: 3515 E. 88<sup>th</sup> St., Tulsa OK 74137. If I cannot find an answer to your question, we'll publish the question

and ask the readers for their answers.

### Contest Time is Coming – What Are Judges Looking for in Articles?

Judging for articles published in club bulletins is based on four areas: style and language, article quality, author's effort, and educational/entertainment value.

**Style and language.** Articles need a catchy and/or appropriate title and should give the author's name. Judges look for writing that is interesting to read, easy to understand, and grammatically correct. (Using spell check, grammar check, and a live proofreader can help!) Accuracy is also important. Editors should cut any irrelevancies before they publish an article. These items account for 25 points of the scores awarded.

**Quality** is judged according to what type of article was written. **Informational** articles include how-to, hints, lapidary, historical, etc. **Science** articles include mineralogy, geology, paleontology, etc. Articles about **collecting areas** should be about the collecting sites, what specimens are found there, why **an area is being closed, etc., and should not** be a travelogue. **Club activities/members interest** articles can include editorials, shows, civic-community-school activities, etc. **Humorous** articles must relate to the rockhounding hobby, but can be "fun." Judges decide into which of these categories an article fits and award a maximum of 20 points for what they consider "quality."

**Author's effort** means the author must demonstrate correct facts, adequately cover the subject, credit quotes and illustrations, give references for technical matters, and have no copyright violations. Before a judge rates these items he decides whether the author had to do research to write the article or based the article on personal experience or supplemented his personal experience with research. This portion of the judging is worth 35 points.

The **educational and/or entertainment value** of the article can earn up to 20 points. Judges will ask themselves if reading the article teaches something about the hobby or if the article makes the reader laugh.

Obviously, some of the judging has to be subjective. However, most judges are folks who have been authors and/or editors themselves, and they all use the same framework (judging sheets) when they judge. These judges are very qualified to do the job.

Editors can "practice" being a judge themselves by choosing their favorite articles from what they've published, then using the "sample judging sheets" that were included with the contest materials. They can also download these sheets from the RMFMS website at [www.rmfmts.org](http://www.rmfmts.org).

This article was written by using the AFMS judging sheets (same as RMFMS judging sheets) and was also based on the personal experience of the author.

(Clip art above from Discovery Channel School Image Gallery, ©2003. Permission to use for educational, not for sale publications granted.)



### Update continued from page 1

For the time being, patrons of the federally managed public lands in this area, are pleased that their efforts in working with the BLM professionals resulted in a positive result for all concerned. There was only one publicly registered complaint against the proposal, from a non-profit environmentalist group from California who requested more areas to be designated as Wilderness and many fewer off-highway trails recognized by BLM. Most of their requests were denied as not serving in the larger public interest at this time.

### From the Editor

Following is a correction from last months newsletter article on the Bulletin Editors Contest Winners.

#### Small Bulletins

3rd The Rockhound Record, **Lois Splendoria**, Mineralogical Society of Arizona.

*Lois I apologize for misspelling your beautiful name.*

## AFMS Rockhound of the Year Award (ACROY)

*Howie Whiting, Chairman ACROY*

We just had a convention here in Roswell where I heard all kinds of reports about how well the RMFMS clubs are doing. Well from where I sit we are not doing so well.

There are 70 clubs in this Federation. So far this year FOUR clubs have sent in a Rockhound of the Year Award Nomination. That is approximately 6% . So I guess about 93% of our clubs are doing so little that they can not find a single individual to nominate that is working for the club. This is a shame. Surely someone is doing something. When I asked a few people about several programs, they replied well "George " is doing that. Well PLEASE send me a write up about "George".

If you think that you can't write up a glowing report, just send me some notes and I will take it from there.

PLEASE. Let's say thank you to the doers otherwise they just may stop doing. THINK ABOUT IT !!!!

## AFMS Junior Rockhound of the Year

**Brandon Richards**, 17 year old son of **Virgil** and **Regina Richards** of Broken Arrow, OK, is a keeper. He has become invaluable in the few short years he had been a member of the Tulsa Rock and Mineral Society. **Brandon** currently handles the door prizes at the TRMS monthly meetings. He has worked with the Silent Auctions for the past two club shows, taking the chairman position last year. His Boy Scout troop provided concessions at the 2004 Tulsa show. He will give a club program in September about disaster preparedness, safety and CPR as part of the requirements for his Eagle Scout Award. Brandon helps with rock sales and club auctions, always polite and willing to lend a helping hand. The Tulsa Rock and Mineral Society is proud to nominate **Brandon Richards** as the Junior Rockhound of the Year 2007.

Submitted by:

**Kay Atkinson**

Tulsa Rock and Mineral Society  
Federation Representative



**Marie Wester**, RMFMS program library mailer, had knee surgery on August 14. Hope you are doing well!

## Treasurers Corner

*Gene Maggard,*

Here it is September, already. Summer gone and Fall here. This must mean that the RMFMS fiscal year is ending and that it will soon be time to turn in annual report, dues and insurance information. The dues letter will go out in early October, by email to all clubs and treasurers for which I have email addresses. By USPS to all others. The due date will be January 1, 2008. A problem for some clubs in getting current information into the new directory (2007-08) is that officers are elected in January, so they cannot get the new officer information to RMFMS until after their elections. If this is you, please let me know and we will see what we can do about making sure that your most up to date officer information is in the directory.

I hope that you have a nice Fall and are able to squeeze in some nice rockhounding.

## Attention All Non-Profit Clubs

*Submitted by Harry Kilb*

I saw an item in the metro newspaper that IRS is changing the regulations on annual financial reporting from non-profit corporations/organizations. Currently such educational and charitable groups must net more than \$25,000 in income/year to require filing of a ('990') report with IRS. The new regs, to go into effect this fall, lower that income figure to \$5,000; however, only a simple "post-card" report will be required - whatever that means. Do many of our federation clubs fall into that "non-profit" status (with a state non-profit charter?) Ours does, but quite often our then current Secretary has "forgotten" or didn't know to file the required state report (not a financial report) and we then had to make a late filing to retain our state charter, with all the attendant red-tape and bureaucratic nonsense.

**SLOW DOWN  
STOP**



**for school buses loading and  
unloading school children!!**

## New Club is Now Among Us

by DeLane Cox, RMFMS Secretary

The Federation is pleased to announce that a new Club has been approved for membership! Secretary **DeLane Cox** received application and fees, and has received a vote of approval by the Executive Board to have the Florence Gem & Mineral Society in Florence, Arizona, join us. Here is the information about the club:

Florence Gem & Mineral Society  
3827 N South Dakota Ave  
Florence AZ 85232

Pres: **Clancy Bolander**  
520 E Barrell Cactus  
Florence, AZ 85232

V Pres: **Dan Capps**  
3827 N South Dakota  
Florence AZ 85232

Sect/Tres: **Shirley Gossert**  
202 E Ocotillo Dr  
Florence AZ 85232

The Club meets the second Wednesday at 7 p.m. from December thru March only, at the Caliente Clubhouse Annex. They currently have 18 adult members.

# Welcome!

## Polishing Chalcedony Roses

By Ted Robles, G&M Society of Franklin North Carolina

My wife and I had collected a lot of small chalcedony roses at the foot of the Cady Mountains. They were wind-polished, but that was all; I thought I would try an experiment. I put them into the ½ gallon Lortone tumbler, with tin oxide and very little water. I let them go for two weeks picking the thing up occasionally and shaking it to see if the stones were still moving, thinking to add water if they stopped, but they never did.

After two weeks of polishing without grinding. I took them out – my test piece looked good, so I washed them all. After drying, they were the most incredibly beautiful chalcedony roses I have ever seen! I think the old-fashioned ways are sometimes the best, and the polish without grinding is the neatest trick I ever came up with! Try this and you might like the results.

Original source unknown. Taken from The Rockpile, Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society Dearborn Michigan, June 2007.

## Texas Garnets

By Les Connally

There are garnets in Texas, but they are, so far that is known, only almandite. Locations are Llano, Blanco, Burnet, and Gillespie Counties. Gem quality garnets have been found in all these counties although most are small, less than 1/8 inch, although some have been found that are greater than ¼ inch. They are found mostly in stream beds where they have weathered out of the packsaddle schist found in these locals.

The preponderance of these garnets are badly included or too fractured to be of Gem quality; however, some flawless stones are encountered. The search for garnets in stream beds should be done much as the search for topaz or gold, due to their high specific gravity (3.9 – 4.2). Amandite is also known as Carbuncle and is an iron-aluminum garnet.

Selected References:

Kraus, Hunt and Ramsell (1951) *Mineralogy*. (4th ed) McGraw-Hill Book Co., pp 35-358.

Elbert A King Jr. (1961) *Texas Gemstones*, Bureau of Economic Geology Report of Investigations No 42, pp 22.

Original source The Rock Prattle, Jan 2007, Taken from Pickin's & Diggin's, Williamson Co G&M Society Georgetown Texas, April 2007.

## The Best Day

Author unknown

Whether you are giving or receiving  
No Matter what the toil or strife,  
Every day that you are  
Is the best day of your life.

You can make plans for the future,  
You can wish for yesterday,  
But the only thing that matters  
Is the use of your TODAY.

Neither last week nor tomorrow  
Can be here to pass the test,  
This is the day that you are living,  
That's what makes this day the best.

No one ever lives tomorrow,  
Yesterday has flown away,  
But the things that are accomplished,  
Are the things you do today.  
Taken from Gem City Rock News April 2002.



# SHOWS & MORE

## REGIONAL FEDERATION SHOWS & CONVENTIONS

### South Central Federation Convention & Show

Hosts: Arlington Mineral Club  
Arlington Texas  
September 1 - 2, 2007

### Eastern Federation Convention & Show

Hosts: Wayne County Gem & Mineral Society  
Newark New York  
October 6 - 7, 2007

### Southeast Federation Convention & Show

Hosts: Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society  
Pascagoula Mississippi  
November 9 - 11, 2007

## CLUB & SOCIETY SHOWS/SWAPS

### September 1 – 3, 2007, Silver City, NM

24th annual show; Rolling Stones Gem & Mineral Society; Recreation Center, 11th St. and Gold St.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5, Mon. 10-4; free admission; field trips, exhibits, more than 40 vendors, silent auctions, live demonstrations; contact Judy Allen, 16 McKinley St., Silver City, NM 88061, (505) 388-4054; e-mail: Show@stockmanfamily.net.

### September 22 – 23, 2007, Schuyler, NE

Loup Valley Gem, Beading, Crystal and Fossil Show; Loup Valley Gem & Mineral Club; St. Mary's Social Hall,; 305 W. 11th St. Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$1, children free with parent; flint knapping, wire wrapping demonstrations, Nebraska fossil preparation, sphere making, archaeological displays, gem polishing, silent auctions, field trip Sun., special wood and agate displays; contact Ben Vrana, 705 C St., Schuyler, NE 68661, 402-352-5531; e-mail: bbv5531@intergate.com

### September 28 – 30, 2007, Enid, OK

Enid Gem & Mineral Society; Hoover Bldg., Garfield County Fair Grounds, Enid, OK, 111 W. Purdue; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$1; contact Billy E. Wood, 1705 S. Johnson, Enid, OK 73703, (580) 234-5354; e-mail: baronladislaus@suddenlink.net

### September 28 – 30, 2007, Tooele, UT

Tooele Gem & Mineral Show, Tooele County Fair Complex, 400 West 400 North.

### October 2 – 7, 2007 Idabel, OK

McCurtain Gem and Mineral Club annual show and sale (run during week for school field trips and other visitors). County Fairgrounds, 9th St. Contact: Cephis Hall, 580 494 6612, email: rperkins8236@sbcglobal.net

### October 13 - 14, 2007, Sierra Vista, AZ

Huachuca Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show at the Elks Lodge on Wilcox Avenue; Free admission and parking; live demonstrations, educational displays, rocks, jewelry, gems, minerals, fossils, equipment, lapidary supplies & more! Contact Show Chairman Bill at 520-803-6590 or via email: billjaeger@hotmail.com

### November 3 – 4, 2007, Oklahoma City, OK

The Oklahoma Mineral & Gem Society show will be at the Oklahoma Fair Park, northeast of the I-40 & I-44 intersection, at the 10th St. East exit off of I-44, in the Modern Living Building.

### January 18 – 20, 2008, Globe, AZ

51<sup>st</sup> Annual Gila County Gem & Mineral Show, Gila County Fairgrounds 3 miles North of Junction US60 & US70. Contact Andy Clark 928-473-3042.

What do silversmithing and mothers-in-law have in common? Silversmithing by the American Indians is not an ancient art, having begun in the 1860's in the southwest. Among the first creations were tiny silver bells worn by mothers-in-law. Since it was the custom in some tribes for the husband to have nothing to do with his mother-in-law, when he heard the tinkle of the bells, he would absent himself from the premises.

Author Unknown; source Hourglass News Jul-Aug 1994.

REMEMBER - to insure that your RMFMS member club sponsored event is listed here, the responsible person should send a written notice to the RMFMS Editor: Sandy Riekeman, 220 W Harry St, Wichita KS 67213-5135 or e-mail at: [wgms2001@yahoo.com](mailto:wgms2001@yahoo.com). Include the following information: Show dates and times, Sponsor (Club), Show Location, Contact Name, phone number and e-mail, and Club Web Site. You may include other information about your show if you wish, but this information will only be printed if space permits. ALL RMFMS CLUBS ARE ALSO ENCOURAGED TO REGISTER THEIR EVENT LISTINGS ON THE RMFMS WEBSITE AT: <[www.rmfmts.org](http://www.rmfmts.org)> e-mail your submissions to the webmaster.

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Vacant

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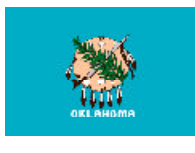
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