

Presidents Message:

Hello To All.

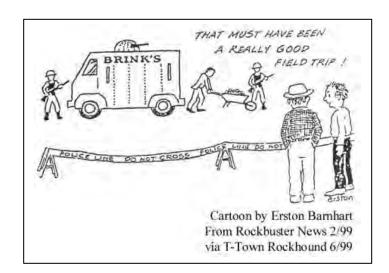
On June 20th six members of the GMSL took a road trip to Bath County to buy over a ton of mineral rough for the purpose of securing a good supply of rocks and minerals for club use. We will be able to cut some nice bookends and spheres from unusual material not found in VA. Also included in the deal are some nice mineral specimens in their own right, and some material that we can use for the silent auction as well as the yearly club auction night. Some of the material will be available at the monthly workshop at Dave Woolley's for the members to purchase for their own use. All of the smaller pieces included and pieces from making spheres, etc., can be used in the making up of sluice bags and grab bags. The reason I haven't gone into detail about the rough material is that we haven't gone through the 30 some crates we hauled back on three pickup trucks. We are planning to have a club workshop on July the 18th to sort through and separate all the material so we can be sure that the material we have can be used in the most productive way. We will have more info about this at the July 15th Club meeting. So please keep the 18th open for this project if you would like to see first hand all the beautiful specimens that have almost endless possibilities for our club.

On a different note Dr. Lance Kearns has

identified several minerals I found at Kyanite Mining Corporations Willis Mountain site. The first was what we thought it was, a beautiful blue fluorescent topaz, a yellow fluorescent apatite, and a green crystal that looked like apatite (non-Fluorescing) that turned out to be Lazulite. The iron-bearing member of that group. So be on the lookout for these and other nice specimens that can be found when we take a field trip to Willis Mountain in September of this year.

Happy hunting and be safe out there.

Keep Looking Down, John Haskins



From the First VP:

NO ARTICLE SUBMITTED

2009 ELECTED OFFICERS

John Haskins - PRESIDENT (434) 525-8430 JMHaskins1@netzero.net

> Steve Boylan First Vice President (434) 534-6108 boylansj@yahoo.com

David Callahan Second Vice President (540) 297-1853 DBCALL1@aol.com

Dorothy Rivera- Secretary (434) 237-0673 <u>dlrivera55@gmail.com</u>

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Members At Large-JoAnn Mason & Tom Powers

COMMITTEE CHAIR PERSONS:

Field Trips – David Callahan
Hospitality-Anne Torning
News Articles – Natalie Darling
Silent Auction – Warren Darling
Special Events – Dee Tinsley
Swap for Rocks – Warren Darling
Website – Alan Rice
Workshops – Dave Woolley
FRA Adult Liaison - David Murphy
Membership - Ralph Torning

The purpose of the Gem &
Mineral Society of Lynchburg,
VA, INC. is to promote
education in The Earth
Sciences including: Mineralogy,
Geology, Gemology,
Paleontology, and
Crystallography

June Meeting Minutes

Meeting: Wednesday, June 17th, 2009 at 7:00 PM

Attendance: 35 members and 2

Hospitality: Thank you to all members for bringing in food, which is always enjoyed.

On Time Drawing: Mark Goodman and Hunter Bunnell-Congratulations to the winners.

Old Business: John Haskins announced that Uncle Billy's Day was a success, bringing in over \$1000.00 for our first fundraiser event of this year. Thanks to everyone who came out to show your support. Your efforts are sincerely appreciated.

First Vice President: Not in attendance. John Haskins announced upcoming programs: July- Vic Fleet on Dinosaurs. August-? Bill Gilbert. If any member has an idea or suggestion for a monthly program please let Steve Boylan know.

Second Vice President: Dave Callahan: field trips as follows Mt. Athos 6/27; picnic at Lake Anna 6/20; Annual trip to Spruce Pine 7/31-8/2. There will be a group campsite. Please see Dave Callahan if interested in camping. There are also two collecting sites that the club will be going to; the Ray Mine and the Sinkhole Mine. Members can also check the Mitchell County, NC website for other collecting sites. Faber Mine 8/19; Willis Mountain 9/19; annual Kentucky Geode Trip to Danville, Kentucky 10/1-4;

Dave has copies of "Quarry Safety Rules" for field trips. If interested please see Dave.

Treasures Report: Franklin Midkiff reported the club raised \$1135.50 on Uncle Billy's' Day. A big thank you to all members who helped. Our treasury Balance in is now \$3,908.96.

Program: Tonight's' Program: Wild Acres Spring 2009- Natalie Darling and Siglinde Allbeck.

New Business: Laura Smith Hoss in Bath County is selling rough minerals. The club will be buying a ton of these for \$750. Volunteer members will be going this weekend to assist with getting these minerals back to Dave Callahan's home for storage until we can go through and categorize them for usage.

Dave Lipscomb will be holding a rockhound show in Charlottesville from July 19th-21st.

The Nature Zone (a division of Lynchburg Parks and Recreation) will be presenting "A Midsummer Nights' Dream" at Riverside Park on Friday June 26th from 7:30 til 9:00.

Dave Callahan has will be ordering "Club Hats". Cost is \$12.00 each, and you can choose your color. See Dave for details.

Minutes submitted by Dorothy Rivera, Secretary

The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg VA, Inc.
Meets on the third Wednesday of each month,
From 7:00pm- 9:00pm
In the auditorium of the Parks and Recreation Building
301 Grove St. Lynchburg, VA 24501
Public is invited, Please join us!

ograms

Our program for the June meeting featured Natalie Darling and Siglinde Allbeck – who presented a "Show & Tell" on their recent adventures and accomplishments at the spring 2009 session of the Eastern Federation Workshop "Wildacres", which is held in the beautiful mountains of Mitchell County, NC. Memories, stories, and of course the finished products were shared with the membership.



Above: The views from the decks are enjoyed, as were the conversations and friendships.



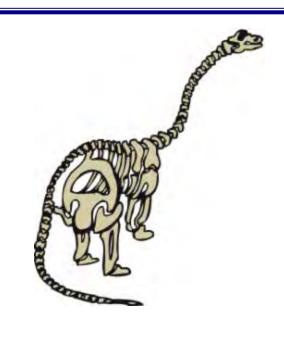
Above: Siglinde in the very well supplied classroom, where students have their own workbench and necessary tools. Right: heating the silver to get the solder to flow.



Future sessions are open to all members of associated clubs. If you would like more information, please visit the Eastern Federation website http://www.amfed.org/efmls/ and click on the Wildacres link. There are also sessions sponsored by the Southeast Federation, (website: http://www.amfed.org/sfms/). There are many different classes available, and the cost is very reasonable as the federations sponsor us for these workshops.

Our July Meeting Program Invited talk about "Dinosaurs, The Earths Most Successful Predators and Prey" by member Captain Vic Fleet.

We will also hold a special competition for junior members-Bring your best dinosaur drawing, and we will have the members in attendance vote for the most creative, scariest, most authentic looking, and best overall. Prizes will be given awarded and drawings will be featured in future issues of the Gem and Mineral Journal. You may even be entered in future federation competitions!



Field Trip Report PAST COMBINED FIELD TRIPS



Field Trip Report and photos submitted by Dave Callahan, Fieldtrip chairman.

BOXLEY AGGREGATES Mt ATHOS QUARRY Lynchburg, VA, June 27, 2009







Boxley's Elisha Hall gives the safety briefing prior to allowing club members to collect in the quarry.

Our annual field trip to the Mt. Athos Quarry was very productive and well attended. The weather was clear, sunny and very pleasant. At times, there was a nice breeze that blew thru the pit and cooled things down.

There were a lot of material piles scattered around that offered a wide variety of collectable minerals. Several of us from the Lynchburg Club loaded up with large, beautifully colored rocks from which we will cut spheres and bookends for our fund raising events. Others collected large rocks to adorn rock gardens and fishponds.



Epidote was plentiful, as was feldspar, quartz and ilmenite; Sphene or Titanite as it is also known was also abundant and eagerly collected. Unfortunately the pretty apple green rapidly fades to a mustard yellow when exposed to daylight. The only way to keep it green is to keep it in a box away from all light when it is not being viewed. Some beautiful crystal pockets of Quartz crystals were collected as well as massive actinolite, chlorite, magnetite, calcite, bornite and others.

Judging from the comments I heard, everyone had a great time and were very happy with their finds. This was a rather large group with upwards of 50 adults and youth attending. We always look forward to our annual field trip to the Mt. Athos Quarry. We all would like to thank Superintendent Elisha hall and Boxley Materials for providing us with this wonderful field trip opportunity.



For further information on field trips, contact David Callahan, 540-297-1853
Email dbcall1@aol.com

Sign-up required for all field trips. Call, email, or see me at the club meeting.

Do NOT just show up at the quarry or collecting site!

OFFICIAL MINERAL COLLECTING FIELD TRIP AND GEM SHOW

The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA. Inc. & The Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Society Inc.

OUR FIFTH ANNUAL SPRUCE PINE, NC. WEEKEND JULY 31 thru AUGUST 3, 2009

THE TRIP: This will be a three-day trip to the 52nd Annual North Carolina Mineral and Gem Festival. To keep expenses at a minimum, several of us will be tent-camping at the Bear Den Campground a short distance away off of the Blue Ridge Parkway at exit 324.8. At this date, our reserved Group C campsite is filled Friday and Saturday night. We have seven who have signed up and that is about the site capacity. If you have signed up, you do not need to make a separate reservation. If you cannot go after signing up to camp, please let me know so someone else can have your spot. If you want to be on stand-by, let me know immediately. Check-in time is 3PM. The campground still has many individual tent, RV and cabin sites that you can rent on an individual basis. Call them (828-765-2888) and make your own reservations. The cost of the Group site will be equally divided among those camping there. There are many motels in the area if you prefer, so make your reservations at once. The motels in Spruce Pine and Burnsville may be filled so try Marion, NC on I-64.

GENERAL INFORMATION: Everyone will drive to Spruce Pine, NC, on your own Friday, July 31st. If you are just interested in attending the club field trips, meet us at the Spruce Pine, NC, Wal-Mart gas pumps no later than 8:00AM, Saturday morning, August 1st, Do not be late if you want to go with us to the Ray Mine and Sinkhole Mine.

The distance from Lynchburg, VA, to Spruce Pine, NC, is about 250 miles and will take about 5 hours plus stops. The distance from Roanoke is a little less depending on the route you take.

We will prepare a meal for the group Saturday night at the Group C campground site and we all chip in to share the expenses, work, food and clean-up. Please contact me if you are interested in dining with us. You do not need to be a camper, but let me know before Monday, July 26th. so that I will know who will be there. We will prepare spaghetti, garlic bread, and a salad. I will also have bottled water, paper plates and plastic utensils. Please bring some dessert for all to share, canned drinks or any other food you want to eat. We will have a big campfire so bring some firewood, a lawn chair, marshmallows, tall tales and we will have a lot of fun.

Friday afternoon and evening you can visit the Pinebridge Center indoor gem show and the outdoor Grassy Creek show. There will be many vendors and you can always find reasonably priced mineral specimens, cabbing materials, jewelry and other interesting items. We will also pick up the Lynchburg and Roanoke Clubs' geodes that have been ordered from Gem Center USA. If you want to spend some extra time enjoying the two shows, plan to drive down on Thursday and see the shows on Friday. You must make your own reservations. The group campsite is for Friday and Saturday nights only.

Continued on next page...

Upcoming Field Trips Continued from page 5

FIELD TRIPS: Saturday morning we will meet at 8:00 AM at the Spruce Pine Wal-Mart parking lot by the gas pumps. Wal-Mart is located off Rt. 226 in the Grassy Creek area.

We will first visit the Ray Mine in Burnsville and hopefully find some nice Beryl, Tourmaline, Apatite, Garnet, Mica and Feldspar. The landowner where we will park charges about 2 or 3 dollars to park in his yard. Be sure to have the correct amount of currency. There is a rather steep foot trail to the mine. The walk is about 20 minutes, but the potential for some nice Beryl crystals makes it worthwhile. No special equipment is required. Just wear comfortable clothes, comfortable hat, good strong boots, bring snacks, water, bug spray, backpack and / or buckets, hammer, chisel, safety glasses, and wrapping paper to protect any nice crystals you will find. I usually take a hoe to turn over rocks and scrape away the soil. If you dig in the dirt, a hoe and small shovel will come in handy. You may also choose to screen for Beryl crystals and fragments in the creek. If you do, bring a ¼" mesh screen and a small trowel. If you plan to spend the day there be sure to bring food, bug spray and water. You can stay as long as you want and leave any time.

After several hours at the Ray Mine, we will stop by a fast food in Burnsville and then visit the Sinkhole Mine in Bandana, NC. You should be able to park close to the dump. Here you may find Apatite, Mica, Feldspar, Garnet, Thulite and Smokey Quartz. If you like beautiful yard rocks, this is the place to go. The same tools you use at the Ray Mine can be used here.

The Mitchell County Chamber of Commerce may sponsor a field trip but you must call them at 1-828-765-9033 to make your own reservation. There is a per person fee. The Chamber has in the past sponsored day trips Friday and Saturday to a couple of active feldspar mines. There is a per person fee and departs from the Pinebridge Center. Visit www.mitchell-county.com for details. If there is nothing on their web site at this date, so you must call them for information. If you want to attend the Chamber-sponsored trips you must make your own arrangements. Contact me for any questions you might have.

SPECIAL NOTE: It ALWAYS rains at some point during this Gem show weekend so bring your rain gear.

Sunday morning on the way home, you might want to stop by the Thermal City Gold Mine just south of Marion, NC, on Rt. 221 and do some gold panning. There will be some vendors still set up at Grassy Creek so you might find some great mineral and fossil specials.

CONTACT: David Callahan, Field trip Chairman, The Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society Inc. and The Roanoke Valley Mineral and Gem Society Inc. Phone 540-297-1853, email at dbcall1@aol.com. Cell 540-874-5201

August 22nd Field Trip Faber Mine

Limited attendance due to 10 car maximum parking Sign-Up Required Lynchburg and Roanoke Club members only

WILLIS MOUNTAIN ANNUAL FALL FIELD TRIP

SEPTEMBER 19, 2009(RAIN DATE SEPTEMBER 26, 2009)
Information will e-mailed later so reserve these dates. This will be a big event with a lot of clubs attending.

Schedule of Events...

SHOWS & TRIPS

July 2009

<u>July 17th-19th-</u> Treasures of the Earth Gem, Mineral and Fossil show and sale, Boone, NC; Boone National Guard Armory <u>www.toteshows.com</u>

July 22nd-25th- Franklin NC Gem and Mineral Society hosts their 43rd annual Macon County Gemboree at the Macon Co. Community Bldg, US 441S. Contact 800-336-7829 for further details.

July 31st - Aug 3rd - Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg and Roanoke Mineral and Gem Club's Spruce Pine field trips and gem and mineral shows. (See page 5-6 or go to http://www.mitchell-county.com/ for details.)

August 7th-9th- 18th- annual North Georgia Gem and Mineral Show. Northwest GA Trade and convention center, in Dalton, GA. www.toteshows.com for information.

August 8th- DMC Field Trip to Thermal City Gold Mine in Union Mills, NC. Open to club member's only- no guests. Details on the we b at http://www.gamineral.org/dmc.htm or call Tim Barton 828-885-8248

September 11th – 13th- Winston-Salem, NC Gem and Mineral Show sponsored by the Forsyth Gem and Mineral Club. Dixie Classic Fairgrounds, Gate 9, in the Coliseum Annex Bldg. Information: mariona1@yadtel.net

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	11
13	14	15 Meeting 7-9 PM	16	17	18
20		Woolley's Workshop			25
27	28	29	30	31 Spruce P	ine Trip
	13	6 7 13 14 20 21	6 7 8 13 14 15 Meeting 7-9 PM 20 21 7PM 22 Woolley's Workshop	6 7 8 9 13 14 15 16 Meeting 7-9 PM 20 21 7PM 22 23 Woolley's Workshop	1 2 3 6 7 8 9 10 13 14 15 16 17 Meeting 7-9 PM 20 21 7PM 22 23 24 Woolley's Workshop 27 28 29 30 31



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Our July Meeting Program Invited talk about "Dinosaurs, The Earths Most Successful Predators and

Prey" by member Captain Vic Fleet

Uncle Billy's Day 2009

This was our first fundraiser for this year, and the weather and crowds were kind and generous. We had a fair number of club members on hand to help with the work and educate curious spectators about our hobby and crafts. A big thank you to all who came out to show your support. Don McIntyre and Dave Callahan took pictures throughout the day and submitted them for our newsletter. If you missed this event, mark your calendar now for the Apple Festival in October, and you too can be a part of the grand festivities of the Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA!



Nona Haskins, Jean & Frank Midkiff, Lynne & Tom Powers, Siglinde Allbeck, Natalie & Warren Darling,& Don McIntyre helped with setup, sales, and take down.



Rock candles & bookends



Left: Dave Callahan manned the geode cracker. Below- a nice selection of geodes were available.



Stone spheres, crafted with the sphere cutters constructed by Dave Callahan.



Franklin Midkiff & Bernard Rivera



John Hatcher, Bernard Rivera, Bill Livingston and John Haskins were happy to assist folks with their sluicing activities.



Several club members came and went throughout the day, and although I cannot mention everyone we saw, we do appreciate your support! Thank You!



Rock Raiders

A large measure of the enjoyment of our hobby consists of collecting in the field. For that reason, the members are proud to endorse the following:





American Federation code of ethics

www.amfed.org



I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc. I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material- matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes, which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.

Mission Statement

Future Rockhounds of America is a nationwide nonprofit program within the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies that develops and delivers quality youth activities in the earth sciences and lapidary arts in a fun, family environment. Our underlying goals are to foster science literacy and arts education through structured activities that are engaging and challenging and by which kids- and the adults who mentor them- learn while having fun.

Article reprinted from Lodestar, Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies Newsletter May/June 2009



News Release

1720 Peachtree Rd, Suite 750, Atlanta GA 30309 Contact: Stephanie Neal Johnson, snjohnson@fs.fed.us w (404) 347-7226, c (404) 895-1709

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE RELEASE 06-09 FOREST SERVICE CLOSES CAVES AND MINES TO PROTECT BATS IN SOUTHEAST

ATLANTA – Most caves and mines on National Forests in the southeastern United States are being closed for one year in an effort to protect bats, according to Regional Forester Liz Agpaoa.

"We are working to stop the uncontrolled spread of White Nose Syndrome (WNS) among bat species," she said. "The closures will allow scientists and land managers time to work together and study the fungus, learn how it spreads and how to best address it."

Under the 12-month closure order signed by Agpaca on May 21, 2009, all caves and abandoned mines on national forests and units in 13 Southeastern states from Oklahoma to Virginia and Florida will be closed unless posted as open. All uses would be prohibited except organized rescue efforts and other actions specifically authorized by the agency.

White Nose Syndrome, or WNS, is named for a white fungus that appears on the faces, ears, wings and feet of hibernating bats. Scientists are trying to determine how WNS affects bats. The disease causes bats to come out of hibernation severely underweight. In a desperate attempt to avoid starving, the affected bats are often seen flying during the day. They are looking for food, but the insects they normally eat in the spring are not yet available. Once a colony is affected, the fungus spreads rapidly and may kill 90 percent of bats at the hibernation site in just two years.

Bats are a natural and important part of forests and help control forest and agricultural insect pests.

Scientists believe the WNS fungus is spread bat-to-bat as they cluster in caves and mines, and it may be unknowingly transferred from one cave or mine to another on the footwear and gear of humans. Infected caves and mines may not show obvious signs of its presence.

No reported human illnesses have been attributed to the fungus.

"The syndrome has already affected caves in Virginia in close proximity to the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests," said Dennis Krusac, Threatened and Endangered Species Specialist for the Forest Service's Southern Region. "Staying out of caves and mines is the one thing we can do right now to slow the further spread of the fungus."

The closure order was implemented in hopes of protecting some of the largest bat populations in the country, Krusac said. Many national forests in the Southern Region are home to several species of bats, including the federally endangered Indiana bat, Virginia big-eared bat, gray bat and Ozark big-eared bats.

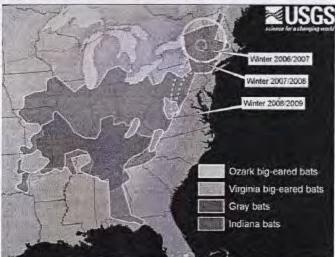
Nearly 500,000 bats have died as a result of WNS in the New England and Mid-Atlantic states, including almost 25,000 Indiana bats.

Source:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/alabama/newsroom/documents/ ForestServiceClosesCavesandMinestoProtectBats

Help Us Slow the Spread of White-nose Syndrome Information on why Emergency Cave and Mine Closures are Necessary

White-nose Syndrome (WNS) has killed nearly 500,000 bats during the last three years. In 2009 WNS spread south from New England into West Virginia and Virginia and now threatens to spread to the Midwest and Southeast, home to the federally endangered Indiana bat, gray bat, Ozark bigeared bat, and Virginia big-eared bat, as well as some of the largest bat populations in the United States. Over 90% of the wintering bats in some New England caves and mines have died because of WNS. Therefore, introduction of WNS into caves or mines where these four endangered bat species hibernate could potentially lead to their extinction.



Source: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/docs/apr 2009 caves closed/ white nose info.pdf

Special thanks goes to Bill Mayer, editor of the 'The Crystal Chronicle', newsletter of Carroll County Gem and Mineral Society. My first awareness to the issue came when the News Release appeared in their June / July 2009 Bulletin.







Marvin and Sally Hershberger of Lynch Station, VA









Lydia Kalyana of Lynchburg VA







Peggy and Pam Gillespie of Lynchburg, VA









Virtual Museum of the **History of Mineralogy**

Newsletter 2009/1 (July 2009)

Can be viewed on the web at

http://www.mineralogy.be/





Lynchburg Club Hat Order

Dave Callahan hopes to have the 5 ordered hats at the July club meeting. The cost is \$12.00 each.

Please make your check out for the correct amount to GMSL. Cash will be accepted if you have the correct change.



The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA Inc.

Natalie Darling, Editor 211 Chesterfield Rd. Lynchburg, VA 24502 www.lynchburgrockclub.org

The purpose of the Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, INC. is to promote education in The Earth Sciences including: Mineralogy, Geology, Gemology, Paleontology, and Crystallography



Lynchburg Rock Raiders is the official FRA association of The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA INC



Happy Independence Dayl

Websites to visit: Lynchburg Gem and Mineral Society:

www.lynchburgrockclub.org

The SEMS Newsletter, the Fastern Federation

The SFMS Newsletter, the Eastern Federation Newsletter, and the AFMS Newsletters are available for all members to read on line at the Federation Websites: www.amfed.org/sfms, www.amfed.org/sfms, and www.amfed.org/sfms, www.amfed.org/sfms, www.amfed.org/sfms, www.amfed.org/sfms, www.amfed.org/sfms, www.amfed.org/sfms) Hobby Related Newsletters are available free of charge by emailing the editors below. Both are great sources of information and worth checking out. (Available only via email)

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