



Smoke Signals

Next Meeting: February 12, 2015

Officers		
President	Bill Jonas	406-890-8264 billjon63@yahoo.com
Vice President	Ken Perkins	480-343-5617 lperkins18@cox.net
Secretary	Ruth Flynn	480-615-0519 reflynn@cox.net
Treasurer	Linn Mistrot	480-606-8863 jorlinn@aol.com
Trustee	Tom Sundling	402-432-9790 ajroct@gmail.com
Trustee	Ted Montague	480-982-1790 tdcopper54@outlook.com
Trustee	Jack Pawlowski	480-288-2642 j6ac5k@calcon.net

The Club meets on the second Thursday of every month October thru April at 7:00 pm at the Lapidary Shop, at the corner of Superstition & Ocotillo, Apache Junction, AZ

Club Dues - \$24 a year per member prorated to first of month of joining.

President’s Message 2

Minutes of the January 2015 Meeting..... 3

Flagg Show 2015 5

2014 Annual Christmas Dinner..... 6

Club Orientation Dates..... 6

Field Trips 6

Donations Needed 7

Editor's Note 7

Rock Shows..... 7

Classified Ads 8

President's Message

By Bill Jonas

I hope all of you had a happy holiday season. I also hope all of you will have a pleasant New Year ahead.

2014 was a year of challenges for our club and one in which we can mark significant accomplishments thanks to many volunteers. We proposed our club's first annual auditable budget last year and performed rather well to that estimate. We instituted a new bookkeeping system that is showing good results and will be even further refined this coming year. We had our new rock and gem show at Apache Junction High School in November. This means we have another source of income to ensure payment of our building on time. We participated in two parades with our float and anticipate doing another the last week of February this year. We had a new reconditioned roof installed on our building and recently finished painting the sides and back walls. We also constructed an oil house for storage and recycling of shop saw oil. Last spring our club saw our field trip program return with increased planning and new collecting sites. These are a few of the improvements (and certainly not all) made by many officers and volunteers that go a long way in showing the care and pride we have in striving to make our club be the best that it can be.

However, there are still many challenges and opportunities lying ahead of us. Our membership is growing and changing rapidly. To me, as I have mentioned before, this means our club needs to be managed accordingly to accommodate the increased needs of a larger club population. The significant increases in local resident membership means we need to do some things differently in the immediate future that we never anticipated before. Things like accommodating summer usage of the shop and increasing local volunteers to allow that to happen. Our 2015 budget was approved by our membership at our last general meeting. That budget includes some of the items we need to expand our membership services to accommodate this club growth. Things like re-starting our silversmith shop and sponsoring new club classes by outside instructors. Another important item that we are actively pursuing is re-introducing guest speakers at our general club meeting or even having a separate meeting for that purpose in some cases.

As for our two rock and gem shows, we are in the process of reducing some of our past recurring expenses such as table rentals and other items where we can. This allows us a higher rate of return on the shows and will help with our student scholarship commitments. I want to give a special thanks to all those volunteers who helped with the November show. I am sorry that we cannot name you all, but the turnout was fantastic. It is imperative that we start thinking about doing this once more in setting up and tearing down the equipment for our February show which is just around the corner. These two shows are extremely important to maintain the viability of our club and all of our commitments.

In closing, I will say that the overall current condition of our club is excellent. The challenges ahead of us are only manageable with the enthusiasm and co-operation of those officers and member volunteers who have and continue to support our mission.

Thanks,

Bill Jonas
President

Minutes of the January 2015 Meeting

By Laurie Jonas, Acting Secretary

- Meeting was called to order at 7:09pm.
- Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Bill Jonas, President:

- Introduced new officers, new members, and guests
- Flag Show – explained what volunteers at the Flagg Show must do, that we will have display cases with items made by members so visitors can see what we do, explained how to get to the Flagg Show.
- Passed around a volunteer sign-up sheet for the Flagg Show.
- Spring show – help needed; contact the event leads to help, introduced the event leads:
 - Wheel: Cheryl Sterns
 - Silent Auction: Tom Sundling and Paul Stearns
 - T-Shirts: Jodi Hesting and John Price
 - Raffle: Jean Sipes
 - Electrical: John Sipes
 - Door Security: Chuck Narveson
 - Admissions: Dorri Kapki
 - Greeters: Cindy Koontz
 - Egg Carton: Nancy Suthann
 - Ming Trees: Lois Perkins
 - Set Up/Tear Down: Bill Jonas
- We will have a float in the Lost Dutchman Days Parade. Event lead is Lynn Carlson. Contact her to help with the float. Carol Thomas will check to see what must be done for our club to have a free booth at this event.

Ken Perkins, Vice President:

- Working on getting our flag pole installed. Will rent a 2-man auger to dig a hole for the pole. Needs two strong guys to work the auger. The auger will cost about \$50.00.

Laurie Jonas, Acting Secretary:

- Minutes of the December general meeting were published in the December newsletter. Asked to accept these minutes as published. Lois Perkins made the motion to accept, Mitch Lee seconded. Motion was passed.

Linn Mistrot, Treasurer:

- Explained budgeted vs actual for our 2014 budget. Closed out 2014 budget.
- Explained proposed 2015 budget. Asked for motion to accept 2015 budget. Motion was made and budget was approved. Line items for budget are available for review; contact the Treasurer to view them at any time.
- Explained that any club member who spends money for the club must have a receipt with the correct account number on it before they will get reimbursed. Contact the Treasurer for account numbers (taken from the Chart of Accounts).

Jack Pawlowski, Trustee:

- Has scheduled a meeting for 1/16/15 to review 2014 club financial books. This meeting will be at the shop.
- Meeting to update the by-laws has not been set yet. By-laws are what we govern by. Please read them. They are available on our website at <http://www.ajrockclub.com>. Bill Jonas explained the by-law update process.
- By-law revision will be made available in the newsletter when ready.

Laurie Jonas, Membership Chairperson:

- We have 24 new members since the December 2014 meeting.
- If you have not signed a new waiver for 2015, please do so. You can get one from the shop or on our website at <http://www.ajrockclub.com>.
- You must renew your club membership by 3/1/15 or your name will be removed from our roles.

Ron Ginn, Webmaster:

- Several new picture albums were created and are available on our website at <http://www.ajrockclub.com>.
- The current by-laws are available on our website.

Mitch Lee, Shop Manager:

- Thanked people for helping him with his new job as Shop Manager.
- Stated that we need more monitors. Anyone who would like to be a monitor can contact him or Nancy Suthann.
- Is looking to purchase a large tumbler for the shop.
- Needs help to do some maintenance work around the shop. If anyone can help, please contact him.

Natalie Kirmiel and Lois Perkins, Hospitality:

- Is seeking members to bring snacks to the club meetings.
- No snacks at the January meeting; juice and coffee only.

Nancy Suthann:

- We have a contest for the best cab: For February, you can enter a heart-shaped cab. Each entry will have a number. At the February general meeting, each member will be given a vote as to which cab they deem is best. The cab winner will be given a free club t-shirt.

Nancy Suthann, Door Prizes/50:50:

- Three door prizes were given away.
- A member who is also a member of the Sun City club won the 50:50, but gave the money back to the club. Thank you!

Brian Fermoye, Silent Auction:

- Silent auction closes at 8:25pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Flagg Show 2015

By Laurie Jonas

Wow! We handed out over 4,000 coupons for our Spring 2015 Rock and Gem Show! There certainly were a lot of people who attended the Flagg Show. The show provided a lot of publicity for our club. We signed up new members, renewed old members, and had a great raffle. Our raffle brought in \$407. One of our own new members won the raffle for the 10" self-feed refurbished saw, and he's a really happy camper! Thank you to all of you who volunteered:

Sandra Lindner, Mitch Lee, Nancy Suthann, Laurie Jonas, Bill Jonas, Peggy Aspinwall, Judy Rice, Peter Carton, John Davis, Ginger Donahue, Dave Webber, Karen Webber, Harlan Jones, Sharon Jones, Kelly Iverson, Lynn Carlson, Ron Ginn, Carole Thomas, Lois Perkins, Chris Petty, Margie LaVigne, Greg Nowakowski, John Beechler, Cristina Spadafino, Lyn Massow, Chuck Narveson, Tobia Eaks, Tom Sundling, Connie Sundling, Alan Koberna, Tom Schafer, Ron Nichol, Natalie Kirmiel, Ken Perkins

THANK YOU!! If I've forgotten to mention anyone, please let me know.

2014 Annual Christmas Dinner

By Laurie Jonas

We had over 60 people attend our Christmas dinner. Our club provided turkey and ham, and our members provided a variety of delicious dishes. Arlene Beechler led us in giving thanks, Bill Jonas told us what a great club we were (which we already knew!), and thanked Natalie Kirmiel for setting up the party. Chuck and Judy Fagen provided us with a slide show of pictures they took at our November show. Speaking of pictures, you can find a lot of pictures taken at the party on our website (<http://ajrockclub.com>) under About, Club Activities, 2014 Annual Christmas Dinner. Check them out!

Thank you to all of you who stayed to help clean the clubhouse up after the party. It was GREATLY appreciated!

Club Orientation Dates

By Nancy Suthann

The following are the current dates for our club orientation. As a reminder, if you want to go on field trips or use the lapidary shop, you must attend the first available orientation. Club orientation is held at our shop (2151 W Superstition Blvd, Apache Junction).

February 2015

Tuesday, 2/3 at 1:00 pm

Thursday, 2/12 at 10:00 am

March 2015

To be announced

April 2015

To be announced

Field Trips

By Laurie Jonas

Our field trip calendar is now posted on our website. You can find it at <http://ajrockclub.com>, under Members, Field Trips. This section also lists our field trip rules and the coalition field trips.

Donations Needed

By Sandra Lindner

If you have any of the following items that you would like to get rid of, please consider donating them to the club:

- Office desk with lockable drawers
- Small computer table
- Wire conduit

Editor's Note

By Sandra Lindner

Exciting news! Future projects for our shop include a silversmith shop, air cooling system, and tumbling equipment. And I thought our shop was great already!

Reminder: The shop is open on Saturdays from 10 am – 2 pm. Currently, shop usage on Saturdays is quite low.

Rock Shows

By Laurie Jonas

The following is a list of rock shows being held for the next few months. If you have a show you would like to add to this list, contact me at jonas.laurie@yahoo.com. You can find more information about these shows at <http://flaggmineralfoundation.org/home/about-the-fmf/shows/>:

- Desert Gardens Rock, Gem and Mineral Show, Quartzite, AZ, January 1, 2015 thru February 10, 2015
- Quartzite Pow Wow, Quartzite, AZ, January 21 thru 25, 2015
- Tucson Gem & Mineral Show, Tucson, AZ, January 31 thru February 15, 2015 (<http://www.visittucson.org/events/gem-show/>)
- AJR&G Club Spring Show, Mesa, AZ, February 21 thru 22, 2015

Classified Ads

Did you know that if you are a club member, you can place an ad in this newsletter for free? The ad doesn't have to be rock related, just something you want to sell or information you want to provide about an event. You can put your ad here and you can ask your Membership Chairperson to send out an email club-wide about the ad, again for free! We will not send out email or put ads in our newsletter for non-club members, however.

Field Trip CDs

A computer disc format of the entire Apache Junction Rock Field Trip Manual is available for members only at the Lapidary shop for a fee of \$10.00. All proceeds of the manual sale go to the club. Also available in printed form are directions for using the disc.

The sections of the manual include: rules and regulations for BLM and National Forest sites, plus details of 25 sites to include locations and type of land, vehicle difficulty, personal difficulty, and a picture of a typical specimens at site. The final portion of the manual focuses on injury or illness situations one may find on a field trip. This includes description, first aid, and prevention tips.

For information, contact the Shop Manager or a Monitor.