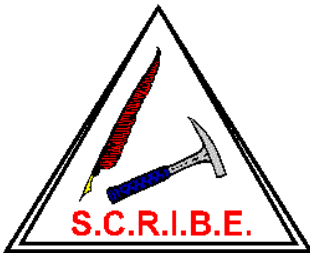


SCRIBE.

Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors
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The Prez Sez

By Doug Arnold
SCRIBE President

This is a busy time a year whether you are on vacation or digging a trench in the backyard for a water line like I'm currently doing.

But I don't think we are ever too busy to help others whether it's through SCRIBE or some other volunteer organization.

Now I'll get off my soapbox!

Have you ever found a rock you couldn't identify? Usually somebody else does but in Utah's red rocks they found a new dinosaur.

It was discovered in an ancient sand dune and is called Seitad It is from the Early Jurassic Period and is estimated to be 185 million years old. Scientists believe it may have been buried alive by a collapsing sand dune. And you thought all the rocks have been found.

I have never lost the excitement of cutting into a rock because you never know what you'll see. It may not be a new dinosaur but it will be something that no one has ever seen.

Whether you're writing an article for your club's bulletin or creating a newsletter it's something unique for your reader. You have created something. And you thought you weren't creative!

When we are creating our newsletters we sometimes feel we can't do anything new.

I did once and it got me started on a new project I really enjoyed doing. I called one of our older members and talked rocks. Newer members of your club (including possibly yourself) don't know their backgrounds. Then it's time to learn. It's really a lot of fun to find out who they are and what drew them in to being a rockhound.

You may find a member who was born in a mining town. Or you may find a member who was once a miner or a jeweler or still likes to pan for gold. You not only will learn a lot but so will your club members. And that person will no longer be the old person at the back of the room at club meetings

There's a lot of skilled older members to be found and your interest may actually get them to show and tell others.

Doug

ROCKHOUND CULTURE Making Cabs

Take a rock and check for fractures,

If the phone rings, don't answer,

You are quality testing.

Set your saw and slab a section,

If the phone rings, don't answer,

You are creating.

Outline your cab on a flat section,

If the phone rings, don't answer,

You are designing.

Trim your cab and shape it,

If the phone rings, don't answer,

You are sculpting.

Polish and set in your best style,

If the phone rings, don't answer,

You are perfecting.

Wear and admire in a mirror,

If the phone rings, answer,

It is time to tell the world!

c Peter Martin, 2010, with apologies to E J Mudd

Procrastination

The ability to put off to Tomorrow what should have been done Yesterday.

Three simple steps to success.

Do it. Do it right. Do it right now.

Midsummer Madness

From Peter Martin

In my club, Verde River Rockhounds, Cottonwood, Arizona, we have activities for ten months of the year, but in July and August there are no activities, when the daily temperature is guaranteed to exceed 100F for weeks at a time. We even stop our newsletter.

But I have decided that this year I will write a 'Mid-Summer Madness' newsletter and send you some bits, plus the whole edition for the year's CD.

Ideas to Spice up Club Meetings

A) **Dunk the Prez:** We've all been to county fairs where an individual sits on a platform in a cage over water. Individuals throw balls at a target which, if hit by the ball, will dump the person sitting on the platform into the water. Now just imagine how much fun it would be to dunk our club President!!!! Maybe the President's wife would like to throw the first ball.

B) **Verde River Rockhounds Got Talent:** Can Mike Kavanagh sing? Anyone know if Paula Burner can dance? Perhaps Steve Cassagio does impersonations of famous people? Wouldn't it be surprising to find out that Helen Johnson does bird call imitations? Wouldn't it be fun to find out?

C) **A Rockhound Poker Tournament:** "I'll match your quartz crystals and raise you two geodes". It might be fun to watch. Instead of money we play with rocks.

D) **Story Teller Time:** Wouldn't you like to hear stories told by Sam Sharp, Cliff Montgomery, Nile Heathershaw, Max Hatch, Don May, or Lynne Wheeler. Oh, perhaps you already have.

E) **Bachelor Auction:** We might be able to raise lots of money with this idea. We've got potential candidates with Hank Dingemans, Rich Schreiner and Garnett Rogers.

F) **Arm Wrestling Contest:** Who do you think might win such a contest? Abe Stewart, Ray Topp, Ron Hendricks, Frank Sherwood or Gillian Martin? At this point we just don't know.



Mid-Summer Madness - By Laws

The following amendments to the club by-laws are proposed for the year beginning 2011.

1. Members will be expelled from the club for throwing rocks at board members, even if provoked.
2. All members must attend at least two meetings per year or their membership will be terminated.
3. All members must buy the newsletter editor at least one drink per year or they may be satirized.
4. All members must catch sight of the President at least once per year, or forever hold their peace.
5. Field trip leaders will be expelled from the club if they lead trips to where there is no place to pee.
6. Members will be expelled from the club if they complain about anything. Yes, you heard - anything!
7. All members must go on at least two field trips per year or their membership shall be suspended.
8. Members will no longer receive the newsletter if they complain about the editor's sense of humor.
9. Members will not receive the newsletter if they disagree with the editor's politics.

At least two of the above amendments to the by-laws are being considered seriously by the board. Your problem is to guess which two and comply with them. (hint: the editor likes merlot)

Adventures in Alexandrite

by Jean Emerson for
The Mountain Gem

I was somewhere wandering in the back streets of Amsterdam trying not to get too lost. And trying to find the rock shop that the hotel concierge had found for me. Of course his map was helpful, but I really couldn't read Dutch. It also turns out that Amsterdam is called "The Venice of the North" because it has all of these canals. This was harder than finding the rock shop in Bergen, Norway!

I was totally turned around when I finally found the shop...with a sign on the door in English that said, "closed - off to Gem Show in Idar-Oberstein." Idar-

Oberstein was the gem carver's mecca and I planned to get there someday. But right now I had only a few free hours to myself in Amsterdam, with no rock shop to visit.

Heading back to the hotel, I passed a dusty goldsmith's store. There were unset stones in the window, and I decided to give it a try. Inside the goldsmith had several cases of gems and even some uncut ones. One small (5mm x 3mm) marquise caught my eye at once. It was marked "alexandrite" – my birthstone. I asked to see it. It was perfectly cut. With his permission I held it in the sunlight as well as in the fluorescent; perfect cranberry to green/blue color change. Not known for my poker face, I looked at him and exclaimed, "This is RUSSIAN alexandrite!" He said yes. I exclaimed again – "this is Russian ALEXANDRITE!" He said yes again. I asked how much he wanted for it. Turns out a hundred dollar unsigned American Express traveler's check would do the trick. He needed to send it to his tailor in Hong Kong.

Before I closed the deal, I looked at his uncut stones. There were two small crystals marked "alexandrite". These were somewhat included but also did the perfect color change. We haggled some more. Another \$100 American Express® check was pulled out. He also had two beautiful ruby crystals. But at this point, I realized I had several more days of business travel ahead and might need the money.

Once I got home, I proudly displayed my alexandrite to my neighbor who was a travel agent and had been all over the world. She had erroneously gotten some synthetic alexandrium in Turkey and thought it was the real thing. Alexandrium rough is cheap and only goes from blues to violet / purple. However the Turks are making a fortune selling it to American tourists as Russian alexandrite. When she saw how my gems did the full color change, she asked to buy the cut stone. At first I hesitated, then I realized that when I got around to cutting the rough, I would never wear the already cut stone. So I ordered a gold Tripp's® setting for her and sold it to her at a profit to me – but at less than 10% of what she would have spent for it in a jewelry store. She was thrilled.

There is alexandrite that comes from Sri Lanka and some from Brazil. But it is poor material compared to the Russian. So, I am very happy that I finally located some of reasonably good quality.

Since I had made some money back, I called the goldsmith and had him send me the ruby crystals for another \$100 American Express® check. I cut a one-carat stone that has beautiful color. I need to get it heat treated to improve the clarity (all facet grade sapphires and rubies need heat treatment except for the ones from Montana's Yogo Gulch). However, it is more fun to just cut another stone than hunt down someone to do the treatment.

Someday I'll have to tell you about the adventures in Bergen, or...in Sydney. How about Oslo-a town of over a million people without a single faceter found in the early

1990s? Stockholm? Milan? Lots of good places in the world to look for rock shops.

Now is the Time

By Doug Arnold, Scribe President

This is the year. You may think, this is the year for what?

It's the year for elections! We elect new officers every other year and this is the time.

But why would you want to run for a post at SCRIBE?

There are many reasons.

1. SCRIBE survives because of its members who are active in the organization.
2. We only meet once a year but there is always something to do behind the scenes.
3. New members don't run for office because they feel they don't know anything. **WRONG**
4. It's not only an opportunity to learn about SCRIBE but everyone brings something to SCRIBE. And you may not know it at the time. We all have helpful information that will help someone else or the entire group.
5. And it's fun. It's amazing how many different people you meet because of SCRIBE.

What positions will we be electing? We will be electing officers for president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and newsletter editor.

There will be a ballot in the next issue along with short biographies on those running. You are asked to make your choices and email or send them in. Votes will be counted and the winners sworn in at the January meeting in Quartzsite. And if you can't make it to the meeting we'll be happy to swear you in without you being there!

What is the process for running for election?

The first thing you can do is **volunteer** to run by contacting me at oldjasper@verizon.net. Mark your note SCRIBE in the subject line so I don't miss your note.

The second way is - some members will be contacted by the nominating committee I'm putting together. Don't say no if they contact you.

Check out the Scribe Web Site <http://scribe.rbnet.net>

Scroll through it and you will find a copy of the **By-Laws** and the **Job Descriptions**. That way, if you think you might be interested in running for office, you can read the job description ahead of time and know what your duties would be.

Dots and Dashes: the Punctuation Wimps

by Barbara Florio Graham

I've written before in SCRIBE about the proper use of commas, end marks, and other punctuation, but I keep seeing more writers using dots and dashes when they don't know how else to break up the text.

Dots and dashes are only appropriate in very specific situations. They are not ways to insert a pause when you can't figure out what other kind of punctuation to use!

Let me begin by reminding you that the rules for writing for print and for the Internet are very different. Just about anything goes when you're dashing off a quick e-mail to friends or family. Many of us use dashes or ellipses (those three dots which indicate you haven't completed your thought) in e-mails, and there are some who write sentence fragments or don't bother with capitalization.

Fortunately, most e-mail programs have an automatic spell-check you can turn on, but otherwise our messages are unfiltered, and I only hope you're careful not to use this informal style when writing to strangers or business contacts.

In print, however, we have to be much more careful.

My general rule for all punctuation is do NOT use it unless you understand the reason for its placement. That eliminates many unnecessary (and sometimes misleading) commas, the over-use of exclamation marks, and semi-colons used in place of commas.

The dash is a the lazy writer's way to avoid figuring out whether to use a comma, a semi-colon, a colon, or parentheses. So here are a few guidelines, using situations where you might be tempted to use a dash:

When you want the reader to pause while you add an extra comment or explanation, you probably need parentheses or commas. If the comment or explanation is really additional information, parentheses are the best choice.

For example:

My friend, Bob (the one you met last summer at our cottage), is joining us for dinner.

But if the explanation is really important, use commas:

Bob, my partner in this venture, will join us for dinner.

2. When you're interjecting another idea that is related to the first one, either start a new sentence or, if they are parallel thoughts, use a semi-colon. Remember that the semi-colon is a substitute for a period, and should only be used between two complete thoughts that could stand on their own as independent sentences. For example:



We had considered creating a new product line; we'd need more staff to accomplish this.

You'll see, however, that making one of these into a dependent clause would make the sentence work even better. So you might write:

We had considered creating a new product line, but we'd need more staff to accomplish this. (Note that you need a comma before the conjunction).

Another example of how to express this idea might be:

Although we had considered creating a new product line, this would require more staff.

Note the comma after the introductory clause.

3: Don't use a dash when you really need a colon. A colon lets the reader know that a series is coming. So instead of: *the group we had in mind - Marcy, Jim, Ruth and Sam -*

use a colon: *We plan to contact the group we had in mind: Marcy, Jim, Ruth and Sam.*

If what follows the colon is not really important, or if it's still tentative, a parentheses is useful, as you can include a question mark if you wish, as in:

We plan to contact the group we had in mind (Marcy, Jim, Ruth and Sam?) before Friday.

4. So what use is the dash? First of all, it isn't a hyphen. The hyphen is half the size of a dash, used to separate parts of a word or words that have been joined to form another new word. Some examples: *e-mail, word-processing, self-serve.*

A dash is twice the width of a hyphen (on typewriters, we used to call this the *em dash* because it was the width of the letter m. You'll notice that it actually doesn't exist on most keyboards, because it isn't really a valid mark of punctuation. So if you use it when you write, you have to put spaces around it so it doesn't appear to be a hyphen.

My suggestion is not to use it at all. The exception is in a list, where you might use dashes instead of bullets (at the beginning) or instead of colons (following each category). So you might have:

Morning Session:

- introductions
- reports - treasurer and committee chairs
- break

I still prefer bullets or capital letters instead of the initial dashes, and a colon following *reports*. So it will look like this:

Morning Session:

Introductions

Reports: treasurer and committee chairs

Break

Now, those three tiny dots. That's called an ellipsis, and here's the Wikipedia definition:

Ellipsis (or "three little points of suspension") is a mark or series of marks that usually indicate an intentional omission of a word in the original text. An ellipsis can also be used to indicate a pause in speech, an unfinished thought, or, at the end of a sentence, a trailing off into silence.

That "trailing off" is how most of us use it, especially in e-mail or other personal communication. In more formal writing (including articles for newsletters) it doesn't make much sense. Your thoughts shouldn't be "trailing off" leaving the reader wondering what should come next.

The ellipsis can be useful if you're quoting someone, and want to indicate that you left out a word or phrase, or that the quote goes on beyond the section you're quoting. So you might write: *Jane choked up as she described the experience as "horrible, exhausting, terrifying..." and then went on to say, "I never want to return..."*

This means Jane added another adjective or two after *terrifying*, and that there was more to her last sentence that you didn't include.

Now that you know not to use the dash and the ellipsis in place of a comma, you'll have to review those pesky comma rules! Maybe SCRIBE should reprint that article from 2002 in a forthcoming issue.

Barbara Florio Graham is the author of three books, *Five Fast Steps to Better Writing*, *Five Fast Steps to Low-Cost Publicity*, and the award-winning *Mewsings/Musings*. She has contributed to 35 anthologies in Canada, the U.S., Norway and Sweden and her work appears on websites in 46 countries in 11 time zones. Her website, www.SimonTeakettle.com, contains a wealth of useful information on many topics. Her famous cat, Simon Teakettle, has a popular blog on the site and a fan club pets of all kinds can join.

Quick Tips for Editors

*By Linda Jaeger,
AFMS Bulletin Editors Advisory Chair*

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 or at home address: 3515 E. 88th 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.

Congratulations to all of you whose bulletins, articles, and poems were entered in the 2010 AFMS Bulletin Editor's Contest. Certificates, name badges, and

trophies for entrants who were not present at the breakfast in California are in the mail. By the time you read this you should have your certificate and/or badge and trophy. The list of winners is published in the September issue of the *AFMS Newsletter*, so take a look at it!

Let me take a moment to address a comment I received at the breakfast. The comment was: "*Many editors do not enter the contest because they feel like they are nominating themselves for an award.*"

First – Our jobs as editors are to be good communicators within our clubs and federations. This is a TEAM effort. When we enter our bulletins or articles/features/poems in a contest we are entering our TEAM in the contest. Think about any school-sponsored or competitive sports team. They enter plenty of contests. Entering does not guarantee them (or us) an award, but it does provide experience and allows us to learn how to improve! Remember good communication? Comments from qualified judges can give us additional perspective and make our communication skills even better.

Second – This is how the AFMS contest works: Club editors enter their best bulletin issues, best articles, etc. in their regional contests. There are seven regional federations (EFMLS, MWF, SFMS, RMFMS, SCFMS, CFMS, and NFMS). The top three winners in each category of each regional federation's contest are entered in the AFMS contest. We have 13 different categories to cover all the methods of written communication we might use in our bulletins. After these have been judged, we present trophies and badges to the top three in each category and a certificate to every entry. This happens at the AFMS Breakfast with Editors and Web Masters. You also receive a score sheet and judges' comments for each entry (unless something has gone awry!). Again – entering the contest is NOT nominating yourself for an award. It is an effort to improve our communication skills and strengthen the glue that holds our organizations together.

Third – Sharing what we do best with other editors and their clubs is something else that strengthens the glue holding us together. Every year AFMS publishes a **Winning Articles Booklet** that can be purchased at cost in either hard copy or CD form. If editors do not enter their team's "best stuff" in the AFMS Editor's Contest, the rest of us never get to see it (unless we just happen to exchange bulletins with them). So, c'mon and share!

Fourth – Everyone deserves a "pat on the back" or an "atta boy" for things done well. As a teacher and as the person who helps present these awards, I can tell you it gives me GREAT pleasure to see someone who is excited to receive an award that tells everyone they have done something worth noticing!

Have I changed your mind? Do enter your regional federation bulletin editor's contest for 2011. Communicate. Learn. Improve. Share!

And by the way – AFMS has approximately 640 local clubs as members with about 52,000 people who belong to those clubs. Again I say, "I wanna see your stuff, too!"

Winning Articles CDs (\$3.50) and a few hard copies (\$8.00) are available by mail.

Make your check to **AFMS**, mail it to **Linda Jaeger** at **3515 E 88 Street, Tulsa OK 74137** and I will send your order to you. The prices given here already include packaging and mailing.

From Sept. 2010 – Northwest Newsletter

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Copyright Law: Facts and Fantasy by John Betts

Web sites, newsletter, handouts, videos, slide shows. What do they have in common? They are all subject to copyright protection and must abide by copyright laws.

This article is to clarify the many misconception among mineral clubs, bulletin editors, AFMS and the EFMLS. Everything in this article has been researched and verified. Unfortunately, this may hurt how mineral clubs operate. But unless we take the precautions listed in this article, you are will be guilty of copyright violations. As an author I have had many instances where my articles have been reprinted without my permission. I have heard many excuses. They all show a basic misunderstanding of today's copyright law. Following are the excuses most often given along with the actual rules that apply:

Misconception #1: The article does not have a "C in a circle" symbol, therefore it is not copyrighted.

Fact: According to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) "The laws of almost all countries provide that protection is independent of any formalities, that is, copyright protection starts as soon as the work is created." You do no need the symbol or the phrase "All rights reserved" in order to protect an article from copyright infringement. These devices will discourage many, but they are not required.

Misconception #2: The article was less than 250 words, therefore we can use it freely.

Fact: An article, column, paragraph or sentence are all equally protected by copyright law regardless of length.

Misconception #3: I credited the original club that published the article, therefore we are legal.

Fact: Giving credit is not a substitute for getting permission. You must contact the author in advance and get permission. For your protection you should get permission in writing or email.

Misconception #4: We got permission from another club editor to use the article, therefore we are legal.

Fact: This is the most abused and misunderstood aspect of copyrights. It is sad, but true, that only the author can grant permission to reprint an article. We will discuss later various strategies for dealing with this problem in the conclusion of this article. But the law is clear, bulletin editors can must get the author's permission before using an article unless the club has received the authors approval to grant permission for reprinting. (In professional journals they clearly establish copyright ownership in advance with authors.)

Misconception #5: The article won a prize in the EFMLS annual competition, and the EFMLS said we can reprint it, therefore it is not protected by copyrights.

Fact: This is another misunderstanding. Again, only the author can grant permission reprint an article. If, in the future, the EFMLS includes a permission form for all entries to the bulletin editor's competition to grant permission to reproduce, then other clubs can freely use the articles. But presently there is no such provision and the authors must be contacted to get permission.

Misconception #6: We are not for profit, therefore copyright laws do not apply.

Fact: Copyright laws apply to everyone. Not for profit status does not exempt you from copyright laws.

Misconception #7: We can distribute Xerox copies of magazine articles to our members at meetings.

Fact: Photocopies, transcriptions, or reprinting are all equally treated under copyright law. It is illegal to reproduce for any purpose an article without permission except under the provision of "fair use". Copyright law does allow fair use of copyrighted material provided only limited copies are made and it is for journalistic, educational or private use. But fair use is limited to the extent that the value of the original article is not reduced in any way. This is a very murky area of the copyright law and it is important that clubs play it safe. If you are going to rely on the fair use rule you should limit yourself to four or five paragraphs or illustrations and be careful not to take the text out of context so that the meaning is changed.



Misconception #8: We excerpted only a portion of the original article, this is allowed under copyright laws.

Fact: This is partially true. Small excerpts can be used, with proper credit to the original author and publisher, in original literary works without infringing on copyrights. However Lapidary Journal recently used an excerpt of one of my articles (without permission). The excerpt amounted to 80% of the column content. That is a copyright infringement. In this case by excerpting only parts of the article they omitted important safety precautions. As a rule of thumb, keep you excerpts short, and in small proportion to the original article content, and provide complete credit to the citation.

Misconception #9: The article is over 25 years old, therefore no longer protected by copyrights.

Fact: There are several different terms for works published depending on date of publication. For works created before January 1, 1978 the copyright coverage is generally for 75 years after publication or 100 years after creation if unpublished, whichever is shorter. There are some subtleties in this law around a 28 year term when first published that is extended to 75 years automatically. Bulletin editors should use the rule that copyrights extend 75 years from date of publication.

Misconception #10: This article was from another country therefore not protected by copyright law.

Fact: Currently all developed countries have signed either the International Union for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works (Berne Union) or the International Union for the Protection of Industrial Property (Paris Union). The total count as of April 1, 1998 was 168 countries participating in enforcing reciprocal copyright laws. Country of origin makes no difference, you must still get the author's permission.

Misconception #11: Another club reprinted the article, therefore it is legal for our club to reprint the article.

Fact: Permission granted to reproduce an article is not transferable. Each subsequent club must contact the author to get permission.

Misconception #12: We included the article on our club Internet web site, since we didn't actually publish anything, we have not violated the copyrights.

Fact: This is one of the most common abuses and is a violation of copyrights. Again, you must get the authors permission to use the article. If the article originated on a web site, it is proper netiquette (Internet etiquette) to put a description to the article on your page with a link to the original web site article. As a courtesy you should ask permission first.

Misconception #13: I got the author's permission to reprint an article that he wrote for a magazine, therefore it is legal.

Fact: This may or may not be true. In general, magazines request authors assign their copyrights to the magazine. In this case only the magazine (the copyright

holder) can grant permission to use their article. However, knowledgeable authors know that they do not have to assign copyrights to the magazine, they can simply grant the magazine the right to publish the article and retain the copyright for themselves. In this case contacting the author does in fact get legal permission to use the article.

By now you might think the situation looks hopeless. But there are solutions. If all clubs adopted the following standards then we will continue to have a free flow of new articles.

List the author's address, and email for every article printed in the newsletter. This will give other bulletin editors the information needed to get legal permission.

Contact the author or magazine before reprinting an article. In my experience no newspaper, magazine or author has ever refused permission to use an article in a club newsletter when asked in advance.

Get permission in writing, or at least email. This is essential to protect yourself from copyright infringement claims in the future, especially from forgetful authors.

Make all authors submitting articles to your newsletter assign your club the copyright. Then you can place a blanket permission statement on the bulletin cover page allowing use of article within. Serious authors are likely to balk at this requirement.

Remember that copyright laws apply to things other than newsletters. Web sites, handouts, videos, etc. are all covered by copyright law. Many infringements have needlessly occurred on web sites where articles are placed on a web site without permission. If the article exists on the author's original web site it is very easy to simply link to the original article. No need to reprint it at all. Otherwise you must get the author's permission.

If you cannot get permission from the author for whatever reason, you can paraphrase. Words can be copyrighted but not the ideas. You can rewrite the article in your own words and not infringe on copyrights. Be very careful to avoid accidentally changing the original meaning and it is still proper to cite your sources, in fact in the EFMLS annual competition articles are penalized if they don't cite references.

Use articles or illustrations in the public domain. All U.S.G.S maps and publications are in the public domain and are not covered by copyrights. Articles from magazines that have expired copyrights are also in the public domain. (Did you ever wonder why you see "It's A Wonderful Life" on television 25 times at the holidays? It is because the copyrights expired and it fell into the public domain.)

For further information on the subject of copyrights you can visit the Library of Congress United States Copyright Office web site at: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/copyright/>

Or visit the World Intellectual Property Organization web site at: <http://www.wipo.org/eng/index.htm>

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Three Vacancies to be Filled

As you are all aware, SCRIBE has only **ONE MEETING A YEAR** – the end of January in Quartzsite, Arizona. Since most of the members are not able to attend this meeting, the Minutes, Financial Reports and Plans for the Future are relayed to the general membership through the newsletter.

HOWEVER – throughout the year, to keep SCRIBE active and vibrant, **decisions have to be made** and this falls to the **Executive Council** which is made up of the 5 Executive Officers and the 10 Regional Vice Presidents.

Because our membership is spread out across the country and overseas, it is easier to keep in closer contact with the members if we utilize the **AFMS Regional Federation**. By having a SCRIBE RVP for each federation, they are in closer contact with the editors – present and potential members.

The best place to recruit new members is at the Regional Federation Show and Editors Breakfast. SCRIBE will send you the publicity information and hand outs. With e-mail, it only costs a little bit of your time to send a message to a **new editor** inviting them to join Scribe. If you incur any postage or photocopying costs, SCRIBE will reimburse you – all you have to do is send your receipts to The Treasurer. Who knows, with a little effort on your part, you might win the **CASH PRIZE** for signing up the most new members next year.

This is an ideal job for a **retired editor** – someone who is not already facing typing, printing and mailing deadlines. It is a way for the `retired` editor to still keep a finger in the pie and help build SCRIBE back to the 200 membership we once enjoyed.

We need RVP`s for Northwest Federation, South Central Federation and Rocky Mountain Federation. Will you step up and volunteer? Check out the Job Description for RVP`s on the Scribe Web Site <http://scribe.rbnet.net>

If you are interested in joining the team, please contact either Doug Arnold, Dick Pankey or myself, Trudy Martin. Our e-mail addresses are on the front page of this newsletter.

Newer is Not Always Better

Trudy Martin

I was just a little surprised that no one took up the challenge, from the last newsletter, to guess my age and receive a Souris Agate Pendant. Well – in case you were curious, I will be **80** on 14 February 2011.

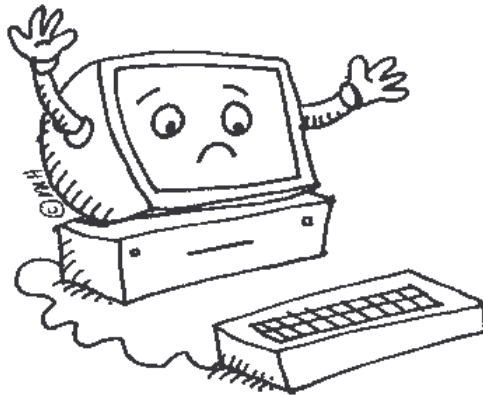
I am from the **old school**. My typing skills were the **Pick and Peck** version – whatever finger was available was the one that got used. I started out in 1974 with a small, portable typewriter that I set on the kitchen table after supper. Eventually I graduated to a **BIGGER** typewriter – still using the kitchen table – and finally an **Electric Typewriter** – pure heaven! By this time we had converted the front bedroom into an OFFICE, complete with desk and typing chair! The following Christmas, Santa brought me a **COMPUTER** with all the bells and whistles – well at least as many as computers had in 1995.

Over the years, the computer has been up-graded and I now have the latest version – **WINDOWS SEVEN!**

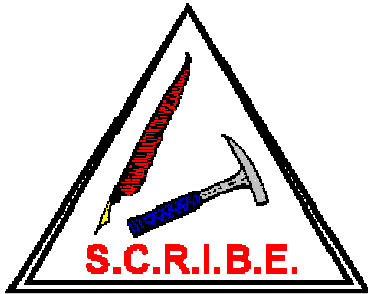
This beast has a mind of its own and tries to anticipate what **IT THINKS** I want to do. Well, OK, that's stretching it a little, and I freely admit **SOME OF IT** is because of my typing style, but here is what has happened as I've been typing these two columns:

- The language changes from US to Canadian French and so I get **É** instead of a?
- The font and size changes from Arial 10 to Calibri 11.
- The space between the paragraphs changes from 6 to 12 point.
- And, as is happening here, I can't get the space between the items.

Am I the only one having these problems or are others experiencing similar things? Did I get a **LEMON**? or is there a **Green Gremlin** hiding in my machine?



Trudy Martin – The Terrible Typist



SCRIBE EXISTS TO -

1. Improve communications and public relations between gem, mineral, fossil societies, their federations, and other related organizations through involved bulletin editors and authors.

2. To advise and assist new editors with old ideas and old editors with new ideas while giving all editors a share in all ideas for publishing better bulletins.

Our SCRIBE logo was designed for SCRIBE members only. It identifies you a member of an organization that represents the most important people in Gem & Mineral Societies. Wear it with pride. Editors are special and should be recognized as such. Ordering information for logos, patches and pins can be obtained from the Scribe Treasurer - address below.

SCRIBE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors

YES - I wish to become a member of SCRIBE.

PLEASE PRINT --- PLEASE PRINT --- PLEASE PRINT --- PLEASE PRINT

I am Editor _____ Assistant Editor _____ Publisher _____ Former Editor _____ Author _____

Web Master _____ Printer _____ Other _____ please give details _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, PROVINCE _____

ZIP / POSTAL CODE _____ PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

Would you like to receive the bulletin via e-mail ? _____ ***** Important that you check this.**
(bulletin access is through Acrobat Reader, which is available on the internet for free.)

New _____ Renewal _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Bulletin Name _____

Club Name _____

Where did you hear about **SCRIBE** _____

Yearly Dues (January 1 to December 31) for ALL members are \$6. single and \$8. couple payable in USA FUNDS

One copy of the annual SCRIBE CD or DVD, full of articles, clip art, newsletter and more, is included FREE with your membership.

New Members: Regardless of which month you join, **your dues are only paid to December 31 of that year.**

You will receive the CD or DVD plus the newsletters published in that year. Example: If you join in September, you will receive the CD or DVD plus 3 newsletters. You will need to renew your membership for the following year.

The **2010 CD** is a **Double Decker**. There is also a **DVD** which covers all the CD's from 2002 through 2010.

Please indicate your choice of either the **two CD's** or the **one DVD**. CD _____ DVD _____

Additional Copies of either is \$3.00 per set.

Make check payable to S.C.R.I.B.E. and mail to Treasurer:

Bob Hughes, PO Box 1633, East Ellijay, GA 30539 706-635-8249

bjhughes@ellijay.com

Check out the SCRIBE Web Site: <http://scribe.rbnet.net>

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Dan Imel, Editor
4 Lanaray Park
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<http://scribe.rbnet.net>



SCRIBE exists to improve communications and public relations between gem and mineral societies and their federations, and other related organizations through involved bulletin editors...To advise and assist new editors with old ideas and old editors with new ideas while giving all editors a share in all areas for publishing better bulletins.

First Class Mail

Dues Time is Comin'

Hello, fellow SCRIBE members. Yeah, I know I am getting an early start this year. However, it seems like some of you have a cash crunch at the end of the holiday season. So I was thinking of getting a jump start this year, and try to get all of you on the list for next year, before next year gets here. That would be appreciated more than you know!

Therefore, how about sending in your 2011 dues now, before time and money get even shorter than 'normal'. Sure, I would also be very happy to have you send in for multiple years, so you don't have to worry about it every year. Your membership cards give the year you are paid through, to keep you informed.

For those of you that possibly will be out of the editorship position soon, why is that a reason to leave? Many of us are past editors, but believe we are never too smart to learn more. And what else gives more value for your \$6.00? A cup of coffee, a donut, and a tip for the waitress costs more than that!



Also, you that are leaving: how about doing your replacement, and also SCRIBE, the favor of telling them about SCRIBE, and hat we are willing to help them get going.

Yes, I expect to be running for the treasurer position again. Unless one of you do my wife the favor of taking my job. So how about getting the jump on it this year? Our mailbox is waiting.

Thank you,

Bob Hughes, treasurer

Words of Wisdom

A clean house is a sign of a broken computer

The grass may be greener on the other side of the fence, but it still has to be mowed.

EDITORS are always WRITE.

Even if you are on the right track
You'll get run over if you just sit there.
