



CRYSTALS AND CABS

Newsletter of the Capital Mineral Club

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April 2021

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Capital Mineral Club News

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The Capital Mineral Club meeting for **April** in person was cancelled. There will be a **ZOOM meeting** scheduled for **April 3rd at 2:00pm** for all members to attend. More information on this as time nears.

Dr. Carl Francis has agreed to be the speaker for this meeting. The topic will be the **Maine Mineral & Gem Museum**.

Editors Note:

The **deadline** to get info to me for publication will be the **3rd Saturday** of every month

- My e-mail address:
pfcram@comcast.net
- CMC Website:
www.capitalmineralclub.org
- Website designed and maintained by:
Peter Cram & Steffen Hermanns
- If submitting material to the newsletter the editor requests that it be sent in Microsoft Word format. This will help in getting the newsletter together.

Welcome New Members

Angela Kelly, Salisbury, NH June Rogier, Twin Mountain, NH

Jodie Boutwell, Webster, NH

2021 Club Dues are due, please send your membership dues to:

Steffen Hermanns, 7133 Oak Hill Road, Loudon, NH 03307

Make check payable to Capital Mineral Club. Dues are \$10.00 per member.

Mineral Clubs - Meeting Dates

Saco Valley Gem and Mineral Club: 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Tin Mt. Conservation Center, Albany, NH – 7:00 PM
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/398593197423304>

Keene: 1st Saturday of each month in the conference room of the Southwest Community Services building at 34 Cypress St. Keene, NH – 6:00 - 8:30 PM www.keenemineralclub.50webs.com

North Shore (MA): 3rd Friday of each month, Hamilton Wenham Community House, 284 Bay Rd, South Hamilton, MA – 7:45 PM
www.northshorerock.org

Boston Mineral Club: 1st Tuesday of each month, Harvard University Geological Lecture Hall, 24 Oxford St., Cambridge, MA – 7:30 PM www.bostonmineralclub.org

Southeastern NH Mineral Club: 2nd Wednesday of each month, St John's Methodist Church, 28 Cataract Ave., Dover, NH – 7:00 PM www.senhmineralclub.org

Presidential Gem & Mineral Society: 2nd Thursday of month at 6:30pm. Jefferson Town Hall, 698 Presidential Hwy, Jefferson, NH 03583

Board of Directors Meeting



Equipment / Workshop Trailer Proposal

The BOD has discussed the need for the Capital Mineral Club to have the ability to setup a workshop where the members could learn how to use lapidary equipment the club owns. To achieve this the best solution would be to buy a 28 x 8.5 foot Cargo Trailer which the club would customize for it's needs.

The estimated costs for this would be:

Initial cost of a new Cargo Trailer which would be \$10,000.

Customize and Build out of Trailer \$3,500.

The BOD recommends that the Club make this purchase, please be prepared to ask questions and vote on this proposal at the April 3rd Zoom Meeting.

Zoom Meeting Detail is Saturday April 3rd at 2:00pm.

You will be receiving another email for Zoom directions.

April Zoom Talk:

Maine Mineral & Gem Museum 2021



Dr. Carl Francis will be talking about the Maine Mineral & Gem Museum, from its founding to today. From Maine minerals to out of this world rocks.

The Museum features not only minerals from Maine but also history about mining in Maine, the people involved and more.



Above: Capital Mineral Club paver at parking lot entrance to the museum.

Steffen will be sending the members a link to this zoom meeting.



Left: A to Z mineral Maine mineral gallery

Right: Meteorite gallery housing the Stifler meteorite collection.



Roadside Collecting

Mineral collecting is one of the most interesting of hobbies. A person must be constantly aware of his or her surroundings. Any activity that would result in the exposure or blasting of rock in those surroundings should be investigated.

My first experiences with roadside collecting was in West Milan, NH. I stopped to refill a water bottle at a roadside spring. In this area, the Ammonoosuc Volcanics had been blasted during the re-construction of Rt. 110. While filling the water bottle I noticed three seam type cavities above and to the left of the spring. I managed to climb up the rock to check the cavities for contents. Two of them were empty; but, the third had contents. The back wall was solid Actinolite. Calcite had crystallized over the Actinolite. On top of the Calcite was a group of five octahedral Pyrites. I was able to remove the pocket (2 ½" high, ¾" wide, 1 ⅛") as a whole due to the way blasting had fractured the rock around it.

Another experience was in Randolph, NH. During the Rt. 2 re-construction, ledge had to be blasted in several spots. After the construction was finished my father and I stopped to look at a section that was a Silicified zone. We located a Quartz seam which had an opening in it about four inches long and one and one eighth inches wide. There were small Quartz crystals on the left side just inside the opening. Using what crude tools we had I managed to retrieve a small crystal from the opening. Much to our surprise the crystal was amethyst colored.

We returned to the spot a week later with appropriate tools. As it turned out, the right side of the seam was a "trap dike" which was easily broken and removed. The Amethyst crystals became richer in color and larger in size the further in we went. To make a long story short, the seam opened up to about 28" in height, 18" wide and 10 feet in length. The best and largest of the crystals had formed on the trap dike wall and had, over time, fallen into the pocket mud where they were well protected. We removed eighty-two groups, thirty singles, and eighteen wall plates. The finest of the groups is now in Robert Whitmore's collection.

Again in a road construction zone: On Rt. 2 in Shelburne, NH. I noticed an elongated white area located on a diagonal slippage zone. By using a ladder I got up to the area and found the white I had seen was Calcite. The mass was about 6 inches thick by two feet long and about ten inches wide. As I worked the Calcite it became evident that what I was working on was the back end of a pocket. On the back wall was one big smoky quartz face.

Two of the larger pieces of Calcite had light smoky gem crystals laid in them (one at two inches and the other at almost four). What that pocket would have yielded if collected in its entirety? On another section of the same ledge I found a sizeable Pegmatite. That Pegmatite had been shaken by blasting and yielded several fine, fist sized, white, Feldspar crystals.

In Berlin, NH some reconstruction of Rt. 110. During blasting, two Feldspar crystals had been loosened in their matrix. The crystals were removed from their matrix without much effort. They were both bright orange in color with one weighing 43 pounds and the other 90 pounds.

Several years ago a natural gas pipeline was laid through Berlin. A trench had to be blasted through the base ledge in several areas. One of these areas was easily accessible from the road. This particular trench had been blasted through the end of a Pegmatite. The upper part of the Pegmatite was composed of a fairly coarse grained orange Feldspar with bands of a greenish colored Muscovite running through it. The lower part of the Pegmatite exposed consisted of a Albitic¹ material which was bladed similar to Clevelandite. The Albitic material was fairly easy to work. I came out of the trench with two double terminated Quartz crystals and an eraser sized colorless Apatite. Sadly, I had been there late on Sunday afternoon. When I checked on Monday the trench had been filled.

Over the years I have found many good specimens in roadside locations. The following are just a few locations:

West Bethel, ME – Titanite, Valencianite

Berlin, NH, Cates Hill – Cordierite

Dummer, NH – Octahedral Pyrite

Stark, NH – Albite

In closing, I would hope that the preceding text would help one realize that observing and checking job sites or within sight of the road can lead to some fine specimens being added to a mineral collection.

Carlton L. Holt

1. **Albitic** - The Sodium end member of the Plagioclase Feldspar group, light-colored and found in alkalic igneous rock.



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Keep on Rockin' in the Free World

Email: pfcram@comcast.net

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WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.CAPITALMINERALCLUB.ORG

Capital Mineral Club Meetings & Events	Gem & Mineral Shows
<p>April 3, 2021 Club Meeting: 2:00pm (Zoom) Speaker: Dr. Carl Francis</p>	<p>Mineral Tailgate Sale May 29, 2021 (rain date May 30, 2021) Havey Quarry, 34 Levine Road, Poland, ME</p>
<p>May 1, 2021 Club Meeting: 12:00 noon Speaker: TBD</p>	
<p>June 5, 2021 Club Meeting 12:00 noon Speaker: TBD</p>	