



CRYSTALS AND CABS

Newsletter of the Capital Mineral Club
Concord, New Hampshire

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March 2007

Volume 7 Issue 7

Capital Mineral Club News

Inside this issue:

◆ February Minutes	2
◆ Workshop Directions	
◆ Workshop Info	3
◆ President's Message	
◆ Other Mineral Clubs and Meeting Dates	
◆ Grant Committee Position 2	4
◆ Grant Committee Neutral Position	5
◆ CMC Calendar of Events	6
◆ Gem & Mineral Shows	

Please note **A CLUB MEETING TIME CHANGE** for the month of **March: 10:00AM – Gordon Jackson's Mineral Workshop**

This month's meeting will be a Mineral Club Workshop at Gordon & Pam Jackson's House. There also will be a show committee meeting before the workshop, 9:00 - 10:00am. All are welcome to the show meeting. The Club/Social meeting will be held on Saturday March 10th, starting at 10:00 am – until Gordon decides to throw us out, (but if you plan to stay after 4:30 you might want to bring dinner). The bad weather date is Sunday the 11th. Don't forget there will be tables for minerals for sale, trade, or give away. Details and Map on pages 3 & 4. Thanks to the Ewing's for last month's refreshments.

Update from the Club Grant Committee.

The club is awarding the 2006 scholarship grant in the memory of the club members that passed away in 2006.

At the February meeting the club voted to award Dylan Bush from Keene State College the sum of \$1,500.00. This club scholarship grant will be used to offset the cost of a six-week geology field camp course worth six college-credit hours towards his degree. For more information on this program check out <http://www.mines.unr.edu/fieldcamp>.

On another note: There is a proposal to change the scholarship grant scope. Enclosed in the March club newsletter are 2 separate positional papers. The first position was in the February newsletter. Please read these papers so you can be comfortable with your vote at the April Meeting.

James S. Tovey

Editors Note:

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

- My e-mail address: steffenh@comcast.net
- CMC Website: www.capitalmineralclub.org
- Website maintained by: Robin Edgewood-Reece & Steffen Hermanns

2007 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE!

MEMBERSHIP RATES:

Adult Single \$10 per year;
 Family \$15 per year;
 Subscriber \$5 per year (includes mail newsletter)
 Or one time fee \$2 (only includes email newsletter)

Please make checks payable to the
"CAPITAL MINERAL CLUB"
and submit or mail them to:

Vincent Valade
35 Plimpton Road
Goffstown, NH 03045

Or

Donald Dallaire
829 Candia Road
Chester, NH 03036

This will be your **LAST** newsletter if dues are not paid.



These are the minutes of the February 10th, 2007 meeting of the Capital Mineral Club. The meeting was held in the all purpose room of the Salvation Army Building on Clinton Street in Concord, New Hampshire.

The meeting was called to order by president, Scott Higgins at 1:20 p.m.. A Motion made and carried to adjourn business portion until after the speaker. Mr. Chris Wong then made a well received presentation on the calcites, fluorites and associated minerals in South Cartage TN. He also had some very nice specimens to show the club members. Chris donated one of his specimens for a door prize. Thank you Chris.

Business meeting resumed at 2:35 p.m. after enjoying a very nice suite of refreshments provided by the Ewings and several door prizes.

Secretaries report was approved as published. Treasurers report was read and approved. Show flyers and a thank you card from the Salvation Army wrapped up the correspondence.

Old business: The club discussed some more ideas about the club competition and handed out the sweat shirts to those winners in attendance. It was requested that the winner's names be posted after the voting so people can see who brought what.

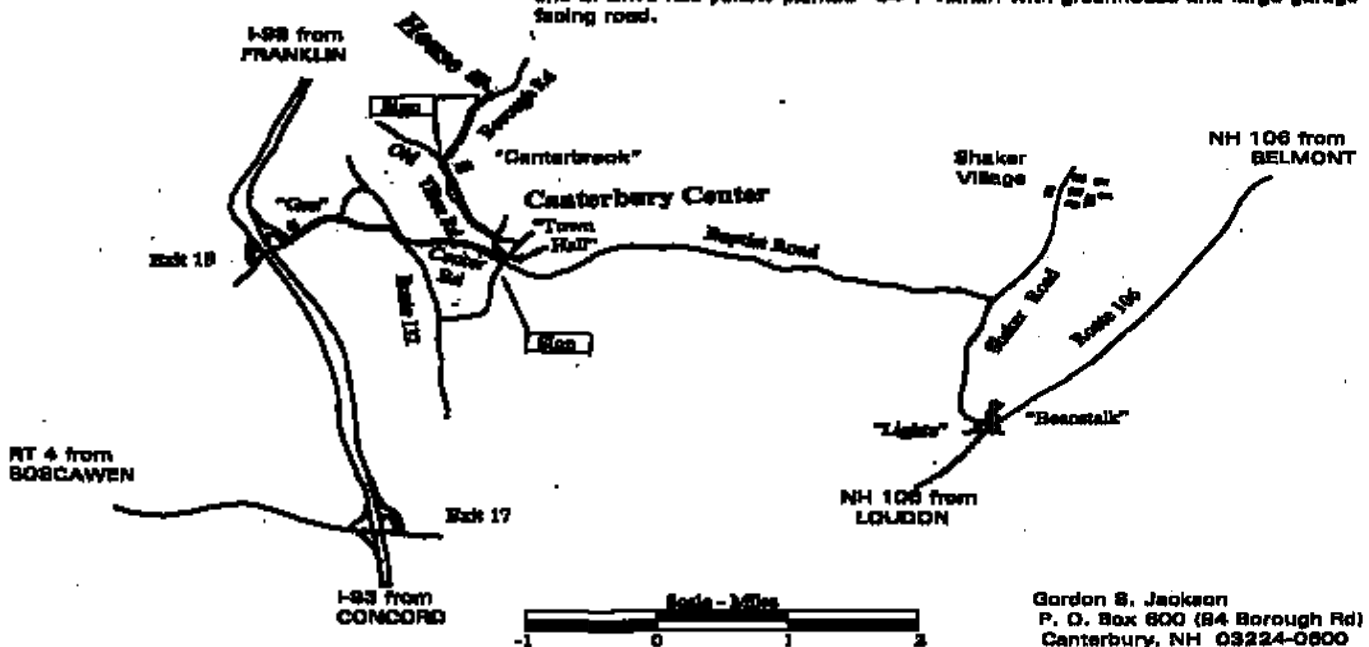
New business: The club voted to approve the scholarships as recommended by the committee. A second position on what should be done in the future was presented and all these options will be discussed at the March meeting and voted on in April. The meeting was concluded around 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Club President Scott Higgins

**Capital Mineral Club
Concord, New Hampshire**

Directions to Workshop

FOLLOW MAP: Take Old Titan Road from Center (next to Town Hall) go approximately 1 1/2miles (about 0.7 mile tar, 0.7 mile gravel) to horse farm (Centerbrook), turn right (Borough Road); go up paved hill 0.7 mile and continue on gravel 0.2 mile to drive on left (across from cape); White newspaper box & rock at end of drive has yellow painted "B4". Marsh with greenhouse and large garage facing road.



Gordon S. Jackson
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March Club Meeting Announcement

The March 10th, 2007 meeting of the CMC will be held at the home of Gordon and Pam Jackson. The time will be 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM. A Show Meeting will start at 9:00am. It is hoped to hear from each committee chairman on where you are, your needs and plans to meet your goals. The regular meeting will be a workshop and social, much the same as previous years. The Snow Date will be Sunday the 11th.

The workshop will involve mineral preparation, trimming, cleaning, displaying, etc. Show and tell is always welcomed and appreciated, in fact encouraged. Anyone is welcomed to bring lapidary equipment. If this is your interest, give others a call to make sure this happens. Otherwise, it will be on the mineral collecting side and the social aspects of the hobby, which is a must, so bring your stories and smiles.

The glass bead blasting cabinet and air scribe trimmer will be available for use by anyone who would like to clean up a specimen. Anyone bringing equipment should probably come a little earlier so you can set up in a relaxed atmosphere, and those bring minerals to sell, trade, give-away, or display will be there will be an area in the shop available.

Pam will supply refreshments – crackers, cheese, peanut / dried fruit mix and coffee throughout the day. There will be decaf coffee available. Also, soda, water and coffee and teas will be provided for lunch and available during the day

The rest of lunch will be a **POT LUCK**. **Please bring a Main dish, Salad, or Desert.** You can call to say what your bringing or take your chances but as always **IF EVERYTHING GOES PERFECT, WE WILL ALL BRING DESSERT!!!** :) Different this year we will be eating in the garage with overflow seating up stairs. I hope everything fits.

If you have a thumbnail specimen in a perky that you are willing to part with, bring it and after lunch we will have a raffle. If you have a mineral – collecting friend or someone who might be interested in the hobby bring them along **THE DAY IS TO HAVE FUN!!!!**

President's Note:

Vince has mentioned to me that he will not be able to maintain secretarial duties right now and I need to ask for help in this area. If interested, please let me know. I hope Vince will be able to resume his duties as soon as possible and extend my heartfelt thanks for the many years of excellent service he has provided to the club. I also want to solicit the club's thoughts on changing the date that the new club officer's take affect. Right now they start in September. This year at a minimum, there will be a new President, Vice President and Secretary. I propose that we change the start date to October to allow the outgoing officers to get through the show and work with the new officers during September. The bylaws allow this action. This will be discussed in March and voted on in April. Anyone interested please let me know, as a nominating committee will be formed this month at the March meeting.

Thanks for being part of our club. See you at Gordon's. Scott

Mineral Clubs - Meeting Dates

Saco Valley Gem and Mineral Club: 3rd Thursday of each month at the Tin Mt. Conservation Center, Albany, NH – 7:00 PM

Keene: 1st Saturday of each month at Keene State College, Bldg. 18, Keene, NH – 7:00 PM

Nashua: Last Wednesday of each month at the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Nashua, 47 Grand Ave., Nashua, NH – 7:00 PM

North Shore (MA): 3rd Friday of each month, St. Paul Episcopal Church, Washington St., Peabody, MA – 7:30 PM

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

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

Capital Mineral Club Grant Program

Position 2

The Capital mineral club's scholarship committee had a meeting on 12/10/06. The committee has lost one member, Eric Cadieux and has gained two new members Gordon Jackson & Don Dallaire. The committee now consists of Bob Whitmore, Robert Wilken, James S. Tovey, Gordon Jackson & Don Dallaire.

The committee's business at hand was to review the two candidate applications we received and to review / critique the club's candidate grant application (formerly scholarship application) and the grant guide-line documents.

The items at hand that were accomplished and agreed to by the full committee are:

For the Grant application:

- Application submittal and interview dates
- Name change to grant from scholarship
- Adding a additional paragraph outlining the obligations of the grant winner
- Adding a reference to Article 2 of the Capital Mineral Club By laws

For the Grant Guide line:

- Name change to grant from scholarship
- Adding a explanation that the Grant Guide lines follow Article 2 of the Capital Mineral Club By laws

The main issue that inspired spirited discussion was the proposal from Bob Whitmore, Gordon Jackson, and Don Dallaire to change the candidate requirements from students pursuing a college degree to a wider group. Their proposal is to open the grant to everyone for, projects, training, research, (or what ever). I, James Tovey was strongly against this proposal. The candidate requirements are a issue that has been discussed and presented to the club membership during the past year and this major change would need to be approved by the club membership. Also based on the Clubs scholarship past history the club scholarship is an opportunity for a college student to get extra training to enhance their education. My reasons why the Grant should not be opened up to a wider group are:

- The grant is based on need. A full time student pursuing a degree doesn't have a steady income. It is a counter action to ask a student to compete against another person or group that have a steady income.
- Requiring a student to be a degree candidate makes it clear as to the individual's focus. It's easier for the grant committee to keep the process clear of any special interests.
- Why not expand the Grant candidate criteria to individuals that are not full time College students?
My opinion is, the need is not clear. One of the main historical purposes of the scholarship was to give a college student an opportunity to get additional specialized training. By not clearly defining the candidate criteria, opens a cloud of special interest group pressure. It also adds to the committee workload to cut thru the gray areas.
- Why not expand the Grant to various types of projects & individuals to increase the participation?
Again, my opinion is, the need is not clear. How and by who and will the project be supervised? How will we establish any accountability?

In conclusion:

By keeping the grant process exclusive makes it easier to justify the financial expense from other club activities, future needs & expenses. Keeping the process clear and simple makes it easier to govern and implement. The grant application participation will be only as good as the committee members and the club membership promote and get the word out to the state colleges, Universities and their students.

This issue is a club membership decision, which should be voted on:

Keep the existing grant candidate requirements: Supported by James S. Tovey
Remove the existing grant candidate requirements and allow all individuals with mineral/geology related projects to apply. Supported by Robert Whitmore, Gordon Jackson, Donald Dallaire

THE “FENCE RIDING” CAMP OF ONE QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER BEFORE VOTING

The camps have lined up in favor and against the expansion of the grant fund. When I first considered the issue I **thought** I was solidly in the pro camp. In principal, I still favor it, but there are (a.) practical issues and (b.) ones of fairness that must be addressed. The issue of fairness is perhaps central to the argument against expansion. The practical issues are ones that have to do with how to implement the expansion. There is nothing to say that these matters can't be resolved. The current pro camp may come up with an easy solution to any and all problems, but my main point, as a committee member, is that **before** the club votes either way, shouldn't we offer some concrete ways of implementing it and dealing with these important issues?

The principal:

The principal behind the expansion of the club grant funds is to benefit parties that heretofore have not been included: primary and secondary school teachers and perhaps even public school students with worthy projects. In my mind and probably in the minds of most, this is a very worthy objective and it does comply with the club's by-laws.

Practical issues and questions:

Shouldn't we know if the goal is achievable before we declare we are going to achieve it? If the committee has to get the word out to teachers and students, it will be a monumental task. How would we make the grant known to every school district in the state? It is likely that this would have to be done yearly. Can we turn this task over to the State Education Department as one committee member suggested? Will they handle it? If the Education Department is involved will we lose any autonomy? Are we prepared to deal with the response any way that it is done? Should we consider limiting the expansion to a more local scale (Concord Schools e.g.)?

The sense now, is that the same committee that is handling the college grants will easily accomplish all of this. Remember, we are all volunteers. How much work will this task entail? How long will it take for current and future committee members to burn out and say: "This is too much like work?" Another likely result might be that the program ends up managed in a slapdash fashion and with a lazy eye. The committee charged with the college grant program is already giving a significant chunk of volunteer time. Would it be logical to have a second and separate committee for this endeavour? The grant criteria and implementation would have to be quite different.

Fairness issue:

The sense now is that the monies to finance the expansion would all come from the same pot as the college grants. The "Against" argument is that you have two totally different groups of people with totally different criteria competing for the same funds. Not only would this be pitting one group against another, it would make the source of funding from one year to the next undependable for both groups. If the source of money is not reliable for BOTH groups, why would either want to bother to apply? Also, if the pie stays the same size, with more people vying for it, how small do the slices become before they are worthless? Are there alternative ways of resolving this? Would it make sense to budget funds separately for both types of grants? How much more money does the club want to or afford to expend?

I offer these questions for the clubs consideration and welcome any suggestions.

Grant Committee Member,
Bob Wilken



Steffen Hermanns

Editor

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Keep on Rockin' in the Free World

Email: steffenh@comcast.net

WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.CAPITALMINERALCLUB.ORG

CAPITAL MINERAL CLUB MEETINGS

MARCH 10, 2007

Show Committee Meeting at 9:00AM
Followed by the 2007 WORKSHOP and POTLUCK
At Gordon and Pam Jackson's House at 10:00AM

APRIL 14, 2007 @ 7:30PM

Speaker: TBA
Terry Crowell & Annette Comeau - Refreshments

MAY 12, 2007 @ 7:30PM

Speaker: TBA
Bill Brown - Refreshments

2007 Club Field Trips to be announced soon.

Gem & Mineral Shows

March 10-11, Clifton, NJ - North Jersey Mineralogical Society. Clifton Gem and Mineral Show. Pope John Paul II Elementary School, 775 Valley Rd. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily. Bob Horn, 908-813-0808, mineraldog@comcast.net.

March 16-18, Hartford, CT - International Gem & Jewelry Show. Connecticut Expo Center. 301-294-1640, fax 301-294-0034, info@intergem.com, www.intergem.com.

GEM & MINERAL SHOWS

April 14-15, Portland, ME - Maine Mineralogical & Geological Society Annual Gem & Mineral Show. University of New England Gymnasium, Portland, ME.

May 5-6, Topsfield, MA - North Shore Rock & Mineral Club presents the 44th Annual Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Show. Topsfield Fairgrounds, Route 1 North, Topsfield, MA.

May 11-13, Augusta, ME - 18th Annual Maine Mineral Symposium. The Senator Inn, Western Ave., Augusta, ME.

June 23-24, Gilsum, NH - Gilsum Recreation Society presents the 42nd Annual Rock Swap & Mineral Show. Gilsum Elementary School and Recreation Center, Route 10, Gilsum, NH.

September 29-30, Concord, NH—44th Annual Gem and Mineral Festival presented by the Capital Mineral Club, Sat. 9 – 5, Sun., 10 – 4, Everett Arena, Concord, NH, Adults – \$4.00, 12 and under free. **This is a new Venue Location**