



CRYSTALS AND CABS

Newsletter of the Capital Mineral Club
Concord, New Hampshire

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May 2007

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Capital Mineral Club News

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Editors Note:

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

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... CMC Website: www.capitalmineralclub.org

... Website designed and maintained by:
Robin Edgewood-Reece & 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.

The CMC will meet Saturday, May 12th at 7:30 PM (Please note we are back to evening meetings) at the Salvation Army Building on Clinton Street in Concord, NH. There will be a Board of directors meeting at 6:00pm preceding the regular business meeting.

The Club would like to thank Ted Johnson for his talk about mineral collecting in southern California.

Our speaker for May is Peter Henry of Market Street Jewelers in Portsmouth NH, he will present a talk about the International Gem Trade.

Thanks to Terry Crowell and Annette Comeau for refreshments.

Refreshments for the May meeting will be provided by Bill Brown.

Mineral of the month will be Gemstones of the World. Bring what you have for display.

Please remember to send in or bring your vote to the may meeting for the Scholarship Proposals presented in March. Votes received after May 12 will not be counted.

The Club still needs to fill several officer positions for the fall. The positions open are President, Vice President, Auditor, Board of Directors and Secretary which Steffen Hermanns has volunteered to takeover. If anyone is interested in one of these positions please get in contact with one of the current club officers.

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



These are the minutes of the April 14th, 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 called to order at 7:30pm with 10 members present.

Due to the lack of a quorum the business meeting was tabled until the May meeting. The Secretaries reports and Treasurers reports will be presented at the May meeting.

Correspondence: none was received

Presentation: Ted Johnson gave a presentation on collecting in Southern California.

Nominating committee: There still hasn't been anyone volunteering for the nominating committee the club still needs to fill several officer positions for the fall. The positions open are President, Vice President, Auditor, Board of Directors and Secretary which Steffen Hermanns has volunteered to takeover. If anyone is interested in one of these positions please get in contact with one of the current club officers.

Field Trip Committee: Discussion about Field trip to New York and to Roxbury CT. Information about these will be posted on the website when information is available, please check back often during the summer.

Old Business: Scholarship ballots due date was pushed out to the May 12th due to the low member turnout.

New Business: Steffen brought up that Bob Whitmore was looking into the details of having the meetings at the Audubon Society Building in Concord, more details at the May meeting.

Door Prizes: Were won by Annette Comeau Flourapophyllite from Poona, India and Scott Higgins Heulandite Calcite from Prospect Park, Passaic County, NJ

Meeting was adjourned and we enjoyed great food from Terry Crowell and Annette Comeau.

respectfully submitted.
Steffen Hermanns
Acting Secretary

Capital Mineral Club
Concord, New Hampshire

World Famous Aquamarine Gems and Jewelries

By: Madhubanti Rudra

Summary: Brazil is the chief source of producing the world famous and finest quality aquamarines. Aquamarines also occur in some places in Africa, especially in Mozambique. They are distinguished from the Santa Maria category by the name Santa Maria Africana

Since the beginning of human history, the colourful world of gem stones fascinated mankind. Rich-poor alike were enthralled by their breath taking beauty. The mighty and powerful - they always wanted more and more of them. The emperors, the conquerors, the pirates - time and again they made expeditions to the remotest corners of the earth, thumped the seven seas, stirred the whole planet in search of the rarest and the costliest of its kind. All these opened up the casket of huge treasure hidden in the womb of mother nature. The tradition of these adventures continues also in the modern days.

Only, the world famous geological scientists replaced the kings and pirates. Then, in addition to the traditional favourites like diamond, emerald or ruby, the semi precious stones like, amethyst or aquamarine caught their attention in a large way. Especially aquamarine with its azure hue swept the admiration of the modern world of 21st century. According to the legends, aquamarine, which originated in the treasure chaste of the mermaids, symbolizes love and loyalty. Presence of iron lends the blue tone to this beryl group gem, which is available in a range of blue shades, from pale to a greenish blue to a dark blue. The shades in aquamarine depend on the places of their origin and these two factors together command the value of the stone. Brazil is the chief source of producing the world famous and finest quality aquamarines. The world market of rough aquamarine crystals is dominated by this South American country. Among world's most famous aquamarines, "Santa Maria" occupies the premier position.

It is characterized by an intensely deep blue hue, which is very rare. They are found in the Santa Maria de Itabira mine in Brazil. They are very much high priced and regarded as a collector's delight. Similar coloured aquamarines also occur in some places in Africa, especially in Mozambique. They are distinguished from the "Santa Maria" category by the name "Santa Maria Africana". Another category of Brazilian aquamarine named "Espirito Santo" acquired worldwide repute. They are not so intensely blue as the Santa Maria. "Martha Rocha" Which has been named after a Brazilian beauty queen also displays a unique blue colour. From time to time, large aqua crystal of high quality has been collected from the huge Brazilian mines. For example, in 1910, a 110.5 Kg crystal was mined at Marainba, Minas Gerais. Another famous big stone was, "Dom Pedro". It weighed 26 Kg, and was cut in 1992 by Idar-Oberstein gemstone artiste Bernd Munsteiner. Till date it is the largest ever cut aquamarine.

There is a 911 CT aquamarine from Brazil which is displayed in Smithsonian museum in Washinton DC in the Hall of Gems, along with other famous gems as the Hope diamond. Another well formed aquamarine crystal was found in Brazil in 1920 that weighed 243 lbs. It was 19/16 inchs., greenish on the outside blue on the inside and so transparent that objects were clearly visible through its length. The British museum of Natural History has a flawless aquamarine of 879 Cts., and the Los Angels Country Museum Of Natural History has a fine 638 CT stone. In 1935 the Brazilian government gave Eleanor Roosevelt a, 1847 CT aquarine. It is now in the museum of Hyde Park, the Roosevelt's New York estate. The Madagascar aquamarines are also famous. Known as "Madagascar Aqua", they usually display a medium dark blue colour.

The African aquamarines that are found mainly in the countries like Namibia, Nigeria, Zambia, Zimbabwe are famous for untreated deep blue colour that persist in even in the smallest cut stones. Some world famous aquamarines are also found in the Karakoram ranges in Pakistan and Afganistan. Nagar Aqua of Pegmatite origin is mined at the heights of some 15,000 Ft. in Nagar, Hunza. The sizes vary from a few cms. To 30 cms. Individual crystals of 2/3 gms. To 250 gms. Have also been discovered. Haramosh aquamarines are also found in the same Karakoram range. They display a fine light to dark blue shades. Jewelleries made out of aquamarines demonstrate a contemporary, yet classic look which is just perfect for the independent and fashionable model women.

Hence it is no wonder that these days aquamarine Jewelleries have become quite a rage in the international market. Some of the aquamarine jewelleries created by world famous designers are in high demand in the international circuit of jewellery enthusiasts. Some of the very well known designs rival each other in their beauty and uniqueness. These days aquamarine has become hot favourite among the modern designers. With the touch of innovative cuttings, and through the fusion of colours with other semi precious gems, they are creating such pieces of art which are truly stunning visual delight for the connocieurs of jewelleries.



Steffen Hermanns

Editor

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Keep on Rockin' in the Free World

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WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.CAPITALMINERALCLUB.ORG

Capital Mineral Club Meetings & Events

MAY 12, 2007

Board of Directors Meeting: **6:00PM**
Club Meeting: **7:30PM**
Speaker: Peter Henry of Market Street Jewelers in
Portsmouth, International Gem Trade
Refreshments: Bill Brown

2007 Club Field Trips to be announced soon.
Keep an eye on the website for further information

SEPTEMBER 8, 2007

Board of Directors Meeting: **6:00PM**
Club Meeting: **7:30PM**
Speaker: TBA
Refreshments: TBA

SEPTEMBER 29 - 30 2007

Capital Mineral Club's Annual Gem and Mineral
Festival at the Everett Arena in Concord NH

Gem & Mineral Shows

**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 pre-
sents the 42nd Annual Rock Swap & Mineral Show.** Gilsum
Elementary School and Recreation Center, Route 10, Gilsum,
NH.

**July 6-8, Marlborough, MA - International Gem & Jewelry
Show.** Royal Plaza Trade Center. 301-294-1640, fax 301-294-
0034, info@intergem.com, www.intergem.com.

**July 14-15, Bethel, ME - Oxford County Mineral & Gem
Association.** 46th Annual Western Maine Gem, Mineral, and
Jewelry Festival. Telstar High School, Rte. 26. 14th, 9-5; 15th,
10-4. Albert Holden, 207-743-8729, hgs@megalink.net.

July 21-22, Concord, NH - Innovative Beads Expo. Court-
yard by Marriott, 70 Constitution Ave. 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. daily.
Renu Sawhney, 845-352-9735, www.innovativebeadsexpo.com.

**July 28-29, South Burlington, VT - Burlington Gem & Min-
eral Club.** 28th Annual Champlain Valley Gem, Mineral, and
Fossil Show. Tuttle Middle School, 500 Dorset St. 10 a.m.-5
p.m. daily. Kathy Howe, 802-656-4118,
www.burlingtongemandmineralclub.org.

**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**