



# CRYSTALS AND CABS

Newsletter of the Capital Mineral Club  
Concord, New Hampshire

President - Gordon Jackson, PO Box 600, Canterbury, NH 03224, Phone (603) 783-4493  
Vice President - Martha Martel, 82A Fairgrounds Road, Bradford, NH 03221, Phone (603) 938-2218  
Secretary - Steffen Hermanns, 7133 Oak Hill Rd., Loudon, NH 03307, Phone (603) 783-4121  
Treasurer - Don Dallaire, 829 Candia Rd., Chester, NH 03036, Phone (603) 483-8467

November 2011

Volume 12 Issue 3

## Capital Mineral Club News

### Inside this issue:

October Minutes	2
Brief History of Mines and Mining in Cornwall England	3
Calendar of Events	4

#### Editors Note:

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

- My e-mail address: [steffenh@comcast.net](mailto:steffenh@comcast.net)
- CMC Website: [www.capitalmineralclub.org](http://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 Capital Mineral Club membership meeting will be on Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM at the Salvation Army Building on Clinton Street in Concord, NH  
The Salvation Army building is located at the corner of Fruit Street and Clinton Street in Concord, NH, it is about a mile back into Concord from the Audubon down Clinton Street.

This months speaker is Woodrow Thompson his presentation will be **Mineral Adventures in London and Cornwall, England**, Woody and Louise Thompson spent over two weeks in England last October, chasing minerals and researching a mysterious old collection from the 1800s. Woody's talk will feature mines, mineral collecting, collectors, dealers, and coastal scenery in the historic tin and copper mining districts of Cornwall England. Photos of choice minerals from London's Natural History Museum and the Royal Cornwall Museum in Truro will also be shown..

Mineral of the month will be minerals of England.

This months refreshments will be provided by Bill Brown.

Thanks to Sarah Sniffen for bringing refreshments to the October Meeting and Kathy Dallaire and Angela Provost for supplying refreshments for the special meeting on October 15th.

**2012 Dues are due**  
**\$10.00 per individual**  
**Submit your dues payment to**  
**Capital Mineral Club c/o Steffen Hermanns**

### Mineral Clubs - Meeting Dates

**Saco Valley Gem and Mineral Club:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at the Tin Mt. Conservation Center, Albany, NH – 7:00 PM  
[www.sacovalleygmc.com](http://www.sacovalleygmc.com)

**Keene:** 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month at Keene State College, Science Bldg. Room SCIC 126, Keene, NH – 7:00 PM  
[keenemineralclub.50webs.com](http://keenemineralclub.50webs.com)

**Nashua:** The Nashua Club is in a period of suspension of many of its traditional activities, but a core group of members plans to continue with some field trips and group participation at the Gilsum Rock Swap.

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

**Boston Mineral Club:** 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month, Harvard University Geological Lecture Hall, 24 Oxford St., Cambridge, MA – 7:30 PM [www.bostonmineralclub.org](http://www.bostonmineralclub.org)

**Southeastern NH Mineral Club:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month, St John's Methodist Church, 28 Cataract Ave., Dover, NH – 7:00 PM [senhmineralclub.org](http://senhmineralclub.org)

**Presidential Gem and Mineral Society:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of month at 7: 00 P.M. North Country Education Services Center; 300 Gorham Hill; Gorham, NH



These are the minutes of the October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 meeting of the Capital Mineral Club. The meeting was held at the Salvation Army Building on Clinton Street in Concord, New Hampshire. Meeting called to order at 2:00 pm by president Charles Forsberg, there were 23 members and three guests present.

Kevin Downey our speaker for the month will do his presentation on China before the regular club business meeting.

**Meeting Minutes:** Motion made to accept made by Martin Kippley, seconded by Steffen Hermanns, with corrections as follows no scholarship and Faulsterite should be Falsterite, passed by the membership.

**Treasures Report:** Don Dallaire read the treasurers report a motion was made by Steffen Hermanns, seconded by Gordon Jackson, passed by the membership.

**Correspondence:** Thank you letter from Mitchell Golos for the Tovoco trip and a thank you letter from Jim Tovey for the Gas Card.

**Show Committee:** Gordon will have a final show report for the annual show. Thanks for everyone's help by Steffen Hermanns. Show income and expense statement was read by Don Dallaire. Hurricane Irene had a negative impact on this year's show.

**Field Trips:** The Alden Trip was a great time with great weather, thanks to Pat Barker for her write-up on the trip, thanks to Bill Brown for organizing the trip form Pat Barker. Gordon Jackson brought up a list of potential speakers for future meetings. Activities include field trips to Sterling Hill Mine in New Jersey, Hoyt Hill which the club owns the mineral rights to, Herkimer, Moat Mountain, Wise Mine dumps.

**Old Business:** Discuss the winners of the club show prizes Alan Cantlin and Donna Beavdin. Charles Forsberg brought up the Annual lapidary and mineral collecting awards and the need to simplify the awards. Individual awards for each category instead of the big plaque.

**New Business:** New Membership application presented to the membership Angela Provost of Concord, NH. Secretary recommends the new application and was passed by the membership. Discussion on a donation to the Salvation Army for letting us use the facilities, Charles suggested a \$300.00 donation Martin Kippley made the motion to accept, seconded by Gordon Jackson who amended the motion to be \$500.00, passed by the membership. Also, if everyone could bring some type of non perishable item for the annual holiday party.

**Door Prizes:** Mike Undercofler won the door prize a calcite specimen.  
Meeting Adjourned at 4:20pm

Respectfully submitted  
Steffen Hermanns  
Secretary

**Capital Mineral Club  
Concord, New Hampshire**

### Brief History of Mines and Mining in Cornwall England

You may wonder why Cornwall had the mineral mines that the rest of Britain missed out on. There is a simple geological explanation. During the late stages of the cooling of the mass of granite that makes up a lot of Cornwall, fissures opened up in the granite when it was still molten, and more hot molten rocks bubbled up through the granite from the earth's interior. These new rocks contained many minerals, and as they crystallized they formed mineral lodes - tin, copper, zinc, lead and iron with some silver. Because the ore bearing rocks formed in this way, rather than being sedimentary rocks like coal (hence coal is laid down in great flat plates), they have to be mined vertically rather than horizontally. Each fissure has to be mined straight down into the earth. Each fissure needed a separate mine. Therefore a great many vertical shafts were needed, rather than the one shaft that was used in coal mining.

Inevitably the mine shafts dropped below the level of the water table, and the water had to be pumped out if mining was to continue any deeper. Hence pumps and the houses for the engines that drove the pumps were a necessary part of mining. These engine houses were the sturdiest buildings in the mines, as they had both to house the machinery and support the massive beams that worked the pumps. It is not surprising that it is the engine houses that survive in Cornwall. In addition the closer to sea level the engine was sited, the less the height the water needed to be pumped to remove it from the mine. Therefore we find today some of these engine house perched on the sea cliffs.

Coal is not native to Cornwall, so it had to be imported, by ship, to keep the engines in steam. Getting coal to the engines was in itself a difficult and expensive operation. Water was sometimes used to power waterwheels, but suitable rivers were not plentiful either in Cornwall.

There were no other substantial buildings in a typical mine. Given that many of the mines were small and vertical, they did not invest in cages to haul the miners up and down, instead access to the mine was by ladder, a tiring part of the daily toil of the miners. And of course the [Cornish Pasty](#) was used originally by the miners as their food underground. It was easy to carry, and could have savory in one end and sweet in the other.

Mining existed here from the days of stone age man. Mining in Cornwall dates back to between 1000 and 2000 B.C. when Cornwall is thought to have been visited by metal traders from the eastern Mediterranean. They named Britain, the 'Cassiterides' - 'Tin Islands'. Cornwall and the far west of Devon provided the majority of the United Kingdom's tin, copper and arsenic. Originally the tin was found as alluvial deposits in the gravels of stream beds, but eventually underground working took place. Tin lodes outcropped on the cliffs and underground mines sprung up as early as the 16th century.

However it was in the 19th century that mining reached its zenith, before foreign competition depressed the [price of copper and later tin](#), to a level that made Cornish ore unprofitable. At its height, the Cornish Tin Mining Industry had around 600 [steam engines](#) working to pump out the mines. [Adventurers](#) put up the capital, and the mine would hopefully return them a profit. During the 20th century various ores became briefly profitable, and mines were reopened, but today none remain. The collapse of the world tin cartel in 1986 being the last nail in the coffin of tin mining.

Provided by Cornwall Calling Travel and Tourist Info about Cornwall England



Steffen Hermanns  
 Editor  
 7133 Oak Hill Road  
 Loudon, NH 03307

Keep on **ROCKIN'** in the Free World

Email: [steffenh@comcast.net](mailto:steffenh@comcast.net)

WE'RE ON THE WEB  
[WWW.CAPITALMINERALCLUB.ORG](http://WWW.CAPITALMINERALCLUB.ORG)

**Capital Mineral Club Meetings & Events**

**NOVEMBER 5, 2011**

Club Meeting: **2:00PM**  
 Speaker: Woodrow Thompson Cornwall England  
 Refreshments: Bill Brown

**DECEMBER 3, 2011**

Holiday Party: **12:00PM - 4:00PM**

**JANUARY 7, 2012**

Club Meeting: **2:00PM**  
 Speaker: TBD  
 Refreshments: Mike Cordero

**FEBRUARY 4, 2012**

Club Meeting: **2:00PM**  
 Speaker: TBD  
 Refreshments: Bea Ewing

**MARCH 3, 2012**

Club Meeting: **2:00PM**  
 Speaker: TBD  
 Refreshments: Peter Cram

**APRIL 7, 2012**

Club Meeting: **2:00PM**  
 Speaker: TBD  
 Refreshments: Kerry Reynolds

**Gem & Mineral Shows**

**November 5-6 2011—BREWER, MAINE:** Penobscot Mineral & Lapidary Club; Brewer Auditorium, Wilson St.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$1, children under 12 free; silent auctions, door prizes, demonstrations, children's activities; contact Lance Shope, 38 Sunset Strip, Brewer, ME 04412, (207) 989-3342; e-mail: [lshope67@yahoo.com](mailto:lshope67@yahoo.com); Web site: [penobscotminerallapidaryclub.com](http://penobscotminerallapidaryclub.com)

**November 5-6 2011—GREENWICH, CONNECTICUT:** Stamford Mineralogical Society; Eastern Greenwich Civic Center, 90 Harding Rd.; Sat. 9:30-5, Sun. 10-4:30; contact Howard Heitner, (914) 779-2041; Web site: [www.stamfordmineralsociety.org](http://www.stamfordmineralsociety.org).

**November 19-20 2011—WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS:** Worcester Mineral Club; National Guard Armory, 701 Lincoln St., I-290 Exit 22; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$3, seniors and students \$2, children under 6 and Scouts in uniform free; 14 dealers, exhibits, door prizes, demonstrations, raffle, unique gifts, minerals, fossils; contact Lawrence Bull, Worcester Mineral Club, PO Box 2278, Worcester, MA 01613-2278; Web site: [www.worcestermineralclub.org](http://www.worcestermineralclub.org)

**August 25-26 2012 — CONCORD, NH: 49th Annual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Festival—** Capital Mineral Club, Everett Arena, Concord, NH, Sat 9am to 5pm, Sun 10am to 4pm, [www.capitalmineralclub.org](http://www.capitalmineralclub.org), [steffenh@capitalmineralclub.org](mailto:steffenh@capitalmineralclub.org)