



CRYSTALS AND CABS

Newsletter of the Capital Mineral Club Concord, New Hampshire

President - Tony Howd, 22A Ryan Road, Goffstown, NH 03043, Phone (603) 497-2863 Email: Tony_h@comcast.net
 Vice President - Mike Cordero, 79 Lund Lane, Warren, NH 03279, Phone (603) 764-9390 Email: mikeandjackie101@myfairpoint.net
 Secretary - Ellen Oberkotter, 79 Sunrise Hill Road, Cornish, NH 03745 Phone (603) 675-6079 Email: tworedbarns@hotmail.com
 Treasurer - Don Dallaire, 829 Candia Road., Chester, NH 03036, Phone (603) 483-8467 Email: dadallaire@hotmail.com

November 2015

Volume 16 Issue 1

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

- 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.

The Capital Mineral Club membership meeting will be on Saturday, November 7th at 2:00 PM at The Salvation Army Building, Concord, NH.

Thank you to Doug Peck for providing refreshments for last month.

This months speaker will be **Tom Mortimer** on **Minerals of the Chicker-ing Mine**. For those who may not know him he has been actively field collecting New England minerals for the past 38 years. An early childhood visit to Mt. Mica in Maine started his passion for mineral collecting.

This months refreshments will be provided by Kerry & Jim Reynolds.

Welcome New Members

Winnie & Hannah Harding, Milford, NH
Betsey Kidder, Plymouth, NH

2015 Club Dues are Due, please send your membership renewals to Steffen Hermanns and make check payable to Capital Mineral Club,

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 www.sacovalleygmc.com

Keene: 1st Saturday of each month at Keene State College, Science Bldg. Room SCIC 126, Keene, NH – 7:00 PM keenemineralclub.50webs.com

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

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 senhmineralclub.org

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

Capital Mineral Club minutes October 3, 2015

The October meeting of the Capital Mineral Club was held on October 3rd at the Salvation Army building in Concord NH. The meeting began at 2:03 with the featured speaker, John Whitney. John brought many fabulous specimens that he has collected, mostly fossilized coral and some minerals from Mt. Mica. His talk and slide show detailed the collecting of the coral in Florida, and many of the dangers, frustrations and challenges that come with the hunt.

The business meeting started at 3:30. Tony asked for acceptance of the last meeting's minutes; seconded and accepted. Don read the Treasurer's report, which was accepted with no discussion. He then explained the findings of the auditors, who had examined two of the months in detail and had picked the complicated months surrounding the show. The two discrepancies were explained, and turned out to be a minor records-keeping mistake and a method of depositing that lumped two different categories together. All is well, and measures will be taken to keep it clearer next time.

Don then discussed the show details. As best we can figure, we had 1243 attendees, which is a significant increase from last year, and it is the second highest attendance in show history. The profit from the show was \$673 more than last year, although the club table was lower in merchandise and income, and dealer income was down a bit. Gary asked what the increase in attendance could be attributed to. Gordon felt it's mostly a natural outgrowth of having been in the same place for years, although he believes some more advertising would help. Getting on radio shows would be good, and putting signs up on the roadsides a week before the show would also be effective. His thought is that we could potentially draw 1500 people, given the population density of Concord. Doug wanted to know how we determine how many kids get in for free, and Gordon said that he estimates that from how many of the free minerals are taken from the bucket. This year 179 were taken, so that's a pretty good estimate of kid attendance. He also mentioned that free passes for kids were handed out one year at a different event, and not even one was used. The suggestion was made that we have a committee to look more into publicity, and Kathy Dallaire reminded us that Tony, Chris Nye and Michelle Johnson volunteered for that job at the last meeting.

Bill Brown gave out maps for the garnet mine trip, and gave an idea of the digging conditions and tools needed.

New Business - Stephen announced a collecting trip to Palermo on October 18th. The club will pay a \$150 fee to cover collecting and lunch. Mike recommended paying an additional amount for diesel so the crew could "fluff up" some areas for the club. A motion was made to provide an additional \$150, and it was passed. Charlie brought in some instructional materials and setups to show us, and said he would appreciate any ideas for more educational materials and supplies to hand out to kids at shows. Pat Barker mentioned that the Saco Valley club was having an upcoming auction of specimens, and gave out information on how to get to that event.

Three new members were proposed and accepted - Winnie and Hannah Harding, and Betsey Kidder. Door prizes were drawn and winners included Doug Peck, Steve Kidder, Edna Whitmore, Winnie Harding, Terry (who gave his ticket to a kid), Carlos Gristani, Charlie Davenport, Bill Ernst, Mike Undercoffler, Mike Cordero (who took a jalapeno instead of a specimen), Ellen Oberkotter, and Elayne Rolbin.

Meeting adjourned.

November talk

Minerals of the Chickering Mine

By: Tom Mortimer

In the past Tom has presented topics to the Capital Mineral club. For those who may not know him he has been actively field collecting New England minerals for the past 38 years. An early childhood visit to Mt. Mica in Maine started his passion for mineral collecting. Tom is a retired electrical engineer leaving more time to pursue his mineralogical interests. He was an active member of the Nashua Mineral Society from 1974 until its disbandment in 2010, the Micromounters of New England since 1984, and the Capital Mineral Club. His other interests include hobbyist electronics and woodworking. All his hobby interests have converged on my New Hampshire Mineral Species Display project and the mindatnh web page.

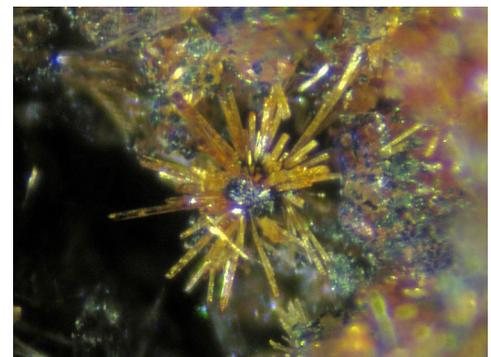


*Above: Fluorapatite crystal
6mm long. Bob Wilken
specimen and photo.*



The talk is in conjunction with an article that appeared in Sep./Oct. 2015 issue of *Rocks & Minerals* magazine. This article was co-authored by Bob Wilken, Bob Janules and Tom. **Don't miss this presentation!**

*Above: Rocks & Minerals article.
Right: Whitmoreite crystal .6mm "naval
mine" habit. Tom Mortimer specimen
and photo.*



Rocky mountain high part 3.

Morning came, day 5, and we went straight up to retrieve the crystal, sure enough it was right by the tree where I had placed all the other crystals. I now could leave but Gordon said: "Do you want to dig here for an hour or so—We're already here." So I agreed. Then the fun began. After a bit of work the pocket opened up and crystal after crystal came out including two that exceeded 11 cm. The pocket was getting wider and going down following a root 5 cm. in diameter. We kept on digging until 3:00PM and decided to finally leave. We went down to the Smoky Hawk and found Joe. I asked him why he didn't send the film crew up to where we were working. He had a puzzled look on his face and then we showed him one of the big crystals. He was amazed and Tim came up and asked where the heck we found those crystals. We told him and he immediately got into his truck and was off to see the pocket. We got approximately 65 good smoky quartz crystals out of the pocket as well as two or three microclines of good morphology but unattractive color. One fluorite crystal was found approximately 3 cm. We kept about 15 and the rest will be returned to Joe Dorris after we cleaned them since it is his claim we were working. We believe the pocket is much larger, possibly 2 meters in diameter. It is clearly a collapsed pocket and we were working only a small part of the top of it. I expect during pocket rupture the larger crystals fell off the roof and walls ending up on the bottom with the crystals on the walls and the wall rock filling in on top. Many of the broken crystals were somewhat re-crystallized indicating the pocket rupture occurred during crystallization or subsequent fluids came through. Joe emailed me later saying that finding a pocket like we did is an unusual event. From what they saw he may try to obtain a short term permit to get an excavator up there or bury the pocket for the future. Gordon & I would love to know how it eventually turns out. Time will tell. In any event we were on a high in the Rockies. It was a certainly great week.



Above: Crystals & Crystal fragments from the pocket.

Left: Gordon working the pocket



Above: Gordon using his cultivator to show depth of the pocket. It was about 1-1.5 meters below the surface. The portion of the pocket excavated was approximately 1 meter long by 0.5 meter wide and deep. How much further it goes is speculation. It was a lot of work just to get as far as we did.

The minerals—Pictures of some of the specimens found after cleaning.



Left: First whole crystal found. It is 5 cm high on a shard of white quartz that is crystallized all the way around. This specimen is unusual and should yield some clue as to the sequence of pocket formation but we haven't figured it out yet.



*Above: Forgotten crystal that initiated return on Monday morning.
Below: A very clean crystal with no damage and very gemmy 7 cm tall.*



*Above: One of the 2 largest crystals found 11 centimeters tall and very "fat"
Right: Microcline crystal group - largest crystal 3.5 cm tall.*





Above left: Crystal 6 centimeters high. Obviously came off wall and broken end was totally recrystallized with many termination peaks..

Above right: 5.3 centimeter crystal with tessin habit.

Right: 5.2 centimeter crystal of equant habit and exceptionally clear with unusual long pinacoid face.



The End

SUCCESSFUL MINERAL COLLECTING = CUTS AND BRUISES

When Don & Gordon returned from a successful collecting trip to Colorado, they brought back many good crystals and one of Don's shirts that had suffered during pocket excavations which involved many "quartz injections" and the resulting blood. In fact, one sleeve had so much blood soaked and dried into it that it was stiff!

I looked for the strongest laundry cleaning product on my shelf, found some liquid "Clorox 2" and poured it, full strength, on the blood stains. Amazing.... the Clorox began to foam and the area actually became warm to the touch and the blood was gone! Total time was about one minute and best part was ... no scrubbing!

I then put the shirt through the wash and found, of course, that I had missed one area. I repeated the "full-strength-Clorox 2" procedure and the stain, now four days old and having been through the washer and dryer, came clean!

So, the next time you have a successful adventure with a pocket and receive cuts and scrapes, don't give up on the clothes that suffer collateral damage!

Kathy Dallaire



Peter Cram
 Editor
 1 Catskill Drive
 Merrimack, NH 03054

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

Email: pfcram@comcast.net

WE'RE ON THE WEB
 WWW.CAPITALMINERALCLUB.ORG

2015 Club Dues are Due, please send your membership renewals to Steffen Hermanns and make check payable to Capital Mineral Club, Dues are \$10.00 per member.

Capital Mineral Club Meetings & Events

September 5, 2015

Club Meeting: **2:00PM**
 Speaker: Al Falster, Basics of Crystallography
 Refreshments Bill Brown

October 3, 2015

Club Meeting: **2:00PM**
 Speaker: John Whitney, Florida Agatized Coral
 Refreshments Doug Peck

November 7, 2015

Club Meeting: **2:00PM**
 Speaker: Peter Cristofono, N.E. mineral localities
 Refreshments Kerry Reynolds

December 5, 2015

Club Meeting: Holiday Get Together **12:00- 4:00PM**
 Chair: Charles Forsberg

January 2, 2016

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

Gem & Mineral Shows

November 7-8, 2015: Old Greenwich, CT.

27 th Annual Show and Sale hosted by the Stamford Mineralogical Society, Eastern Greenwich Civic Center, 90 Harding Rd., Old Greenwich, CT

November 21-22, 2015: Worcester, MA:

39nd Annual Mineral Show by the Worcester Mineral Club, National Guard Armory, 701 Lincoln St. Worcester, MA