



# 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 Email [gsj8544@aol.com](mailto:gsj8544@aol.com)  
 Vice President - Tony Howd, 22A Ryan Road, Goffstown, NH 03043, Phone (603) 497-2863 Email [tony\\_h@comcast.net](mailto:tony_h@comcast.net)  
 Secretary - Steffen Hermanns, 7133 Oak Hill Rd., Loudon, NH 03307, Phone (603) 783-4121 Email [steffenh@comcast.net](mailto:steffenh@comcast.net)  
 Treasurer - Don Dallaire, 829 Candia Rd., Chester, NH 03036, Phone (603) 483-8467 Email [dadallaire@hotmail.com](mailto:dadallaire@hotmail.com)

October 2013

Volume 14 Issue 2

### Capital Mineral Club News

Inside this issue:	
September Minutes	2
Show Report on the Learning Table	3 4
Calendar of Events	5

The Capital Mineral Club membership meeting will be on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM at The Salvation Army Building, Concord, NH.

Thank you to Edna Whitmore for providing refreshments for the September meeting.

This months Speaker is Robert Veilleux , Robert will give a presentation on meteorites, Rocks from Space.

This Months Refreshments will be provided by Pam & Gordon Jackson.

Welcome New Members

Priscilla J Eastman, Campton, NH  
DeWitt Shank, Lewisburg, WV

All the logins for the Members area have changed, Please contact Steffen Hermanns for your new login information if you did not get it already.  
[steffenh@comcast.net](mailto:steffenh@comcast.net)

**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:  
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.

### Mineral Clubs - Meeting Dates

**Saco Valley Gem and Mineral Club:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 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)

**North Shore (MA):** 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month, Hamilton Wenham Community House, 284 Bay Rd, South Hamilton, MA – 7:45 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 September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013 meeting of the Capital Mineral Club. The meeting was held at the Salvation Army Building on Clinton Street in Concord, New Hampshire. Called to order at 2:00pm by President Gordon Jackson, there were 25 members present and the speaker Carl Francis.

### Speaker

President Jackson Introduced Doctor Carl Francis, former curator of the Harvard Mineral Museum, as our speaker for this meeting. Doctor Francis spoke and displayed for 90 minutes on the Maine Mineral & Gem Museum and their collection of Maine and New England minerals and the future of the museum located in Bethel Maine.

Meeting resumed at 3:50 PM

1. **Motion** by Gary Bono, seconded by Martha Martel, to accept the minutes of the June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013 meeting of the Capital Mineral Club meeting held at the home of Gordon and Pam Jackson's home in Canterbury. The minutes were published in the CMC monthly newsletter, Volume 14, Issue 1.

President Jackson called for a **motion to amend** the grant proposal of \$2,000 to \$3,000: Motion by Bill Burroughs, Seconded by Pat Barker

The original grant proposal of \$2,000 was to fund the purchase and distribution of a book on the geology of the White Mountains, in the memory of John McCrory, to the libraries of all New Hampshire public high schools and some charter schools. There will be a memorial plate on the first page of each book so distributed, at no cost to the NH high schools, with the Capital Mineral Club logo and the name of John McCrory. Each book cost about \$35. Gordon explained that some 110 books have been committed and any extra books will be available for purchase by Club members. Motion on amendment approved.

Main motion on minutes approved. [Comment: this procedure of amendment was out of order.]

2. **Motion** to accept Treasurer's report by Doug Peck, Seconded by Bi. Donald Dallaire produced figures showing income of \$5,602 from the attendance at the G&M Festival of August 24-25 well Boroughs end. Total income from the last meeting report was \$14,180, with expenses of \$12,612 for the same period. The G&M Show financial report is not complete at this time. The Club equity is reported at about \$69,000. Don explained that \$2,704 of the income was from the sale of McCrory minerals and other stuff and will be used to fund the grant proposed in paragraph 1 above. Gordon J. reported that attendance at the Show was 1134, second highest of recent years. He hoped for 200 more next year.

Motion of the Treasurer's report approved.

3. President Jackson called for a **motion** to accept 8 new members as listed in the Club newsletter, V14, Issue 1. Motion by Bill Burroughs, Seconded by Pat Barker - Approved as presented.

4. President Jackson drew attention to the new storage cabinet that the Salvation Army has allowed us to place in the meeting room. Funding for this cabinet was approved at a prior meeting.

5. **Motion** by Bill Burroughs, seconded by Edna Whitmore, to purchase a projection screen to hang permanently from the ceiling of our Salvation Army meeting room. President Gordon explained that the SA has approved such an installation and this will save us from fumbling around with a screen at almost every meeting. The cost will be less than \$350 and this was approved by the members.

6. The Lottery winners this meeting: Alexandra Prescott, miniature tourmaline; Robert Wilkin, UV light.

Thanks to Pat Barker for the door prize donation.

7. Gordon and Don Dallaire announced a trip this month to the Havey Quarry, Poland Maine, invitation to be sent by email shortly.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 4:18PM.

Respectfully submitted

Charles Forsberg for Steffen Hermanns

Secretary

**Capital Mineral Club  
Concord, New Hampshire**

# REPORT OF THE LEARNING TABLE

September 25, 2013

## **CAPITAL MINERAL CLUB- GEM & MINERAL FESTIVAL August 24-25, 2013**

### **BACKGROUND – A First Year Effort**

The original stated goal was simply to introduce youngsters and others to the world of rocks, minerals and the simple tests to identify what they find.

One simple (?) test centered on specific gravity and the opportunity to work with real meaningful numbers. Other considerations would center on STREAK testing, HARDNESS testing, crystallization and so on.

It was intended to be a hands on experience. Doing is believing and if we can accept that the hands can fill the mind then the mind can direct the hands on the next project. Vocabulary is often the firewall of grasping concepts in science and to overcome this we need to get involved. Did we get involved at the Show?

### **PREPARATION**

I prepared for the Show by bringing just about everything I could think of. I had minerals, scales, tools, weights, posters, literature, jugs for water and various containers, my computer and a separate monitor, a money bag, and things I can't remember. I certainly had plenty of scales and inventory to sell and lots of other stuff.

The Club provided an 8 foot table located at the far end of the members' table arrangement. I provided a power cable for my computer and monitor.

How well prepared was I to conduct the activities at the table and field questions from our visitors? Well, read on-

### **OBSERVATIONS**

Saturday was somewhat difficult because of all the stuff I brought and trying to arrange it to be attractive to our visitors. I hardly had any space to do anything useful.

Sunday I left the computer home to clear space and rearranged the table to remove all irrelevant clutter. Sunday went far better than Saturday.

Sales were less than desired, but probably realistic for the traffic and purpose of the Show. From the attendance I sold something to one person in 40.

### **ANECDOTAL EXPERIENCE**

1. A fellow showed up with bag of odd rocks and wanted some idea if they were valuable or interesting. They came from somewhere in South Carolina as I recall and the guy said they were rather common in the area of collection which had a lot of fossils. The only thing I could identify was a chunk of magnetic iron ore. Other members couldn't help much.
2. A retired Air Force Sergeant sat down and I went through the Specific Gravity procedure and answered his questions along with his service history and my own. He bought a scale.
3. A youngster approached with his parents and showed me a bluish egg that he was trying to identify. We did a specific gravity test and came up with a value close to sodalite, which was the suspect choice, later confirmed by Bill Metropolis. The kid was satisfied I believe.
4. A more interesting visitation included two boys aged seven and nine and their mother. The seven year old had found an interesting chunk of material by the river across the street and wanted to identify it. We did a specific gravity test and came up with a value that put it much less than 2. We then discussed the item and where it was found and what association it might have to the area. We talked about man activity and glacial deposit and the strange composition it had. I explained that a heat/flame test might help me in my suspicion. This I could not do although a soldering iron tip might have settled the question I believe. My conclusion based on the evidence is that the kids picked up a piece of interesting pavement. The specific gravity tested in the coal range. The nine year old seemed able to follow my measurements, but the seven year old needed

more effort.

5. I did a binary separation demonstration of a pyrite crystal embedded in something to less than perfect results. My result was flawed by a miscalculation that took an hour for me to realize. My method was good but exposed the potential of how errors can result when demonstrating some process like I did. Having predesigned demonstrations is essential.

6. Two gentlemen approached me with a hefty chunk of very metallic something that they were told was Skutterudite. I never heard of the stuff before and did an SG test to have a number to work with. Upon looking it up in an Audubon reference book I found that my test was in the range of the sample, and I also found a dealer who had a sample of the same thing and identified as such. All this seemed helpful to the two gentlemen and I think they left happy.

#### **FUTURE – Next Year?**

Keep it simple is my experience for this year. I clearly came prepared to solve everyone's questions and it didn't work efficiently to my intent.

I would have done better by a simple straight forward approach to mineral testing and follow through with predesigned examinations and testing.

I think a better approach for next year would be to lay out a table with organized stations and samples to demonstrate how to conduct mineral/rock identification. Such a layout could consist of **COLOR, TEXTURE, STREAK, CLEAVAGE, HARDNESS, CRYSTALLIZATION, SPECIFIC GRAVITY, ASSOCIATION, and CHEMICAL COMPOSITION** where it can be demonstrated. This in itself would consume most of an 8 foot table, but could be most informative and productive.

At the end of the above table could be an experimental station where persons could sit down and evaluate their sample. We can provide the sample or the visitor can bring their own.

#### **CONCLUSION**

I did not realize my expectations this year, but I do believe I helped out some with their questions and sold a few scales along the way. Access to other Club members was helpful and this should continue. I lost one magnet to some kid. No, I later found it stuck to a tool bag. My interest now expands to the lost art of "blowpipe" analysis of minerals-more later.



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**

**OCTOBER 5, 2013**

Club Meeting: **2:00PM**  
Speaker: Robert Veilleux Meteorites Rocks from  
Space  
Refreshments Pam & Gordon Jackson

**NOVEMBER 2, 2013**

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

**DECEMBER 7, 2013**

Holiday Party: **12:00PM**

**JANUARY 4, 2014**

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

**FEBRUARY 1, 2014**

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

**Gem & Mineral Shows**

**October 19 - Maine Mineralogical and Geological Society Club Mineral Auction; Room 326, Luther Bonney Hall, University of Southern Maine, Portland, ME; Viewing begins at 6 pm. (This takes place of the October meeting.)**  
<http://mainemineralclub.org/>

**October 19—Albany NH. The Saco Valley Gem and Mineral Club's Club Show, Albany Town Hall, Rt. 16. Info.—Jonathan Herndon, [jherndon1@roadrunner.com](mailto:jherndon1@roadrunner.com).**

**October 26–27—Warwick, RI. The Rhode Island Mineral Hunters' 42nd Annual Rock, Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show, Community College of Rhode Island, 400 E. Ave. Info.—[www.RIMH.us](http://www.RIMH.us).**

**August 23-24 2014: CONCORD, NH: 51th 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)**