



# Crystals and Cabs



NEWSLETTER OF THE CAPITAL MINERAL CLUB  
NH SNO-SHAKERS CLUBHOUSE  
70 CLOUGH POND ROAD, CANTERBURY, NH 03224



FEBRUARY 2026  
VOLUME 26  
ISSUE 6

President – Steffen Hermanns  
7133 Oak Hill Road, Loudon, NH 03307  
(603)783-4121, steffenh@comcast.net

Vice President – Kathleen Welker  
834 NH Route 12A, Cornish, NH 03745  
(603)359-1771, kwelker4@comcast.net

Treasurer – Crystal Czaja  
57 High Street Apt C, Exeter, NH 03833  
(603)759-5754, crystaldigns@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook and at capitalmineralclub.com

## Inside this issue:

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Meeting Minutes              | 2-3 |
| Article: Collector Spotlight | 4   |
| Calendar of Events           | 5   |

### Editor's Notes:

The deadline submissions for publication are due by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month.

Submissions should be sent to capitalmineralclubnewsletter@gmail.com.

The Capital Mineral Club will meet Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at NH Sno-Shakers Clubhouse, 70 Clough Pond Road, Canterbury, NH 03224 .

Future Rockhounds of America (ages 9-15) and Mini Miners (ages 5-8) will meet 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM and students will be given a presentation by Deb Johnson of the Maine Mineral and Gem Museum about meteorites, with a possible session on Micro Minerals time permitting.

The general meeting starting at 1:00 PM with Deb Johnson of the Maine Mineral and Gem Museum speaking.

2026 Membership Dues were due by Jan, 1 2026, please send your membership dues to:  
Steffen Hermanns, 7133 Oak Hill Road, Loudon, NH 03307  
Make check payable to Capital Mineral Club.

## MINERAL CLUBS – MEETING DATES

**Saco Valley Gem and Mineral Club:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at the Tin Mountain Conservation Center, 1245 Bald Hill Road, Albany, NH 03818 at 7:00 PM

**Keen Mineral Club:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month October through May at the Making Community Connections Charter School, 310 Marlborough Street #115, Keene, NH 03431 at 1:30 PM  
September meeting is a potluck picnic. Use the door on the right side of the building. DO NOT park in the vacant lot next door; vehicles parked there will be towed even on a Sunday.

**North Shore Rock & Mineral Club:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month at The "Hamilton-Wenham" Community House, 284 Bay Road, South Hamilton, MA 01982 at 7:45 PM

**Boston Mineral Club:** 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month at Harvard University Geological Lecture Hall, 24 Oxford Street, Cambridge, MA 02138 at 7:30 PM

**Southeastern New Hampshire Mineral Club:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at St. John's United Methodist Church, 28 Cataract Avenue, Dover, NH 03820 at 7:00 PM

**Presidential Gem and Mineral Club:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month at the Great North Woods Welcome Center, 25 Park Street, Lancaster, NH 03584 at 6:30 PM



# January Meeting Minutes

The January meeting of the Capital Mineral Club was held on January 10, 2026, at the NH Sno-Shakers Club House in Canterbury, NH. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM with 24 members present. We started with a presentation by Tom Mortimer on the Mines of

Westmoreland-Chesterfield area. The business meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM with 30 members present.

Tom Mortimer (Mindatnh.org – site is dedicated to the documentation and confirmation of New Hampshire mineral species) was the presenter for this month's meeting. The presentation was on the Mines and localities of the Westmoreland-Chesterfield area. Tom provided his publication Latitude-Longitude Coordinates for Philip Morrill's NH Mines & Mineral Localities. Includes updated NH mineral species list. They were available for purchase.

Thank you, Tom, for the informative and interesting presentation.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT:

MOTION TO: Accept the December minutes as printed in the newsletter.

By: Nancy Lockhart                      SECONDED: Vicky Meyers

DISPOSITION: Voted on and carried by membership 24 in favor – 0 against.

## TREASURER'S REPORT:

MOTION TO: Accept the Treasurer's report

By: Jim Young                              SECONDED: Don Dallaire

DISPOSITION: Voted on and carried by membership 24 in favor – 0 against.

## OLD BUSINESS:

### Christmas Party Awards

Contact Steffen Hermanns if you won an award for the field collecting and lapidary specimens. He will present the prize.

### Field Trips:

- Palermo trip is planned for March 8. More information regarding time and location will be provided.
- Steffen suggested a trip to The Mineralogical & Geological Museum at Harvard University.
- Nancy Lockhart will schedule a trip to Highland Park in Massachusetts for the 3rd weekend in March. There is a maximum limit of 15 people. Contact Nancy if interested.
- Dawn Quirk suggested a trip to Herkimer Diamond Mines in New York. Contact Dawn if interested.

**Club Trailer:**

Steffen Hermanns and Jay Dowling continue to work on the insulation installation.

**Flyer Promoting CMC**

Per a prior club meeting regarding a flyer to promote the Club and its programs and activities, club members can contact Dawn Quirk for ideas or to assist with its creation.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Trailer Equipment:**

- Jay will compile a list of equipment requested for the trailer. The list will be reviewed at the next meeting. All members will have input.
- Discussed old vs new equipment. Joe suggested that the club auctions off old equipment that will not be used in the trailer.
- Suggestion was made to take the trailer to Highland Park and load equipment into it vs equipment delivery.
- Steffen noted that he will pick up old equipment in Gordon's garage prior to the next meeting.

**Club Dues**

Steffen announced that payment is required by February 1 for club dues. If they are not paid by February 1, then members will not be listed on the insurance and cannot attend club trips. Cannot pay dues later than February – cannot pay dues on a club trip.

**Raffle**

Richard Chaney won the major prize. Beautiful Quartz Crystal plate was donated by the speaker, Tom Mortimer. Collected in the 1990s by Vince Valades. From the William Wise Mine Westmoreland, NH.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** Steffen Hermanns

**SECONDED:** Jim Young

**DISPOSITION:** Meeting ended at 3:00 PM



## Collector Spotlight: Fred Wilda

**A**lthough a mineral collector and lapidary artist, Fred Wilda's first and primary love has always been art. He is well-known as the creative genius behind the watercolour illustrations of minerals

in the book "The pegmatite mines known as Palermo". Until recently, both originals and prints of these works have been available, and have been avidly collected.

**F**red started creating art as a very young child. He recalls early days, when perhaps four or five, falling asleep over his colouring books with crayons strewn around him. He says "I would wake up loving the smell of the crayons. It never left me; I remember it to this day." As he grew, his canvas changed. Ballpoint pen drawings on his jeans, and on his book covers, caught the attention of the school art teacher, and she encouraged him to sign up for art electives in high school. At home, house paint on box covers created the smooth surfaces he loved to draw on. One of the first paintings he did on those makeshift canvases was of a sailboat under blue skies. Most scenes he painted from imagination, but he also enjoyed doing sketches of antique automobiles from life or from photos. His uncle sometimes would give him four or five dollars for these paintings, which was big money for a kid. It happened often enough for him to feel encouraged and valued. The uncle eventually bought him three actual canvases and a set of oil paints, and one of the paintings he created was the one pictured here, of a bridge. It was sold and gifted to an older woman, who kept it for decades before gifting it back to Fred.

**A**lthough he had planned on going into carpentry or auto body work, both subjects he enjoyed in school, everything changed in his senior year. The school art teacher encouraged him to enter an art competition, and he was one of a very few chosen to attend a series of classes at a school of fine arts in Boston. He knew he wanted to try and make a living from art, but the biggest hurdle turned out to not be opportunity, but money. Art school was very expensive, and his family simply did not believe in taking out loans. Somehow, he was going to have to teach himself.

(To be continued)

# Calendar of Events

## Upcoming trips:

**Palermo  
March 8**

More information regarding time and location will be provided.

## Upcoming events:

**New England Mineral Conference  
May 15-17, 2026**

Sunday River Grand Summit Resort  
97 Summit Road, Newry, ME 04261

## Upcoming shows:

**53<sup>rd</sup> Meriden Gem Show  
March 7-8, 2026**

Francis T. Maloney High School  
121 Gravel Street  
Meriden, CT 06450

**North Shore Rock & Mineral Show  
May 2-3, 2026**

Topsfield Fairgrounds  
207 Boston Street  
Topsfield, MA 01983

**NEMA Mineral Tailgate Sale  
June 6, 2026 rain date June 7th, 2026**

Havey Quarry  
34 Levine Road  
Poland, ME 04274

**Gilsum Rock Swap  
June 27-28, 2026 rain or shine**

640 Route 10  
Gilsum, NH 03448

**43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Champlain Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show  
July 18-19, 2026**

Champlain Valley Exposition  
Expo North Building  
105 Pearl Street  
Essex Junction, VT 05452