



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

September 2015

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Capital Mineral Club News

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

Thank you to Gordon and Pam Jackson for hosting the June Meeting and letting us use their house. We didn't have a meeting...just barbecued and had an auction.

This months speaker will be Alexander Falster, he will be talking about Basics of Crystallography. Al received his A.S. degree in chemistry from the University of Wisconsin, B.S. and M.S. from the University of New Orleans.

This months refreshments will be provided by Bill Brown.

Welcome New Members

Beverly Bradley, Derry, NH
Andrew & Jay Smerekanicz, New Boston, NH

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.

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

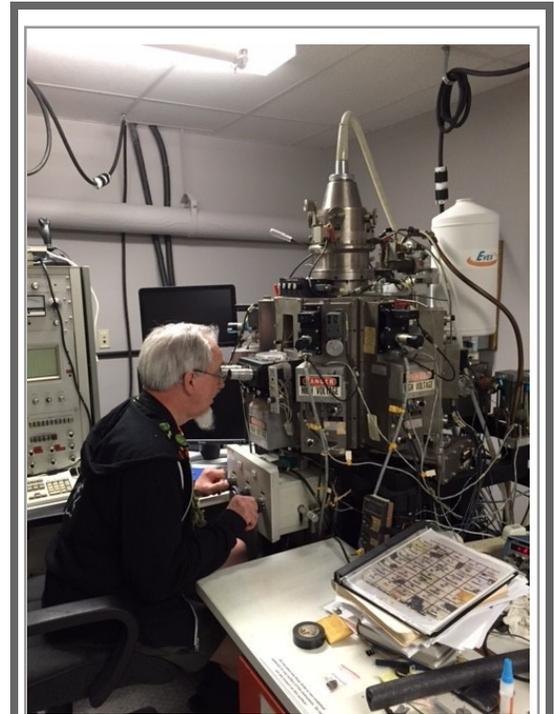
September Program Basics of Crystallography

Our speaker for September is Alexander Falster. Al received his A.S. degree in chemistry from the University of Wisconsin, B.S. and M. S in geology from the University of New Orleans, For many years he was the research technologist at UNO and part of Dr. William "Skip" Simmons MP² group of pegmatite researchers.

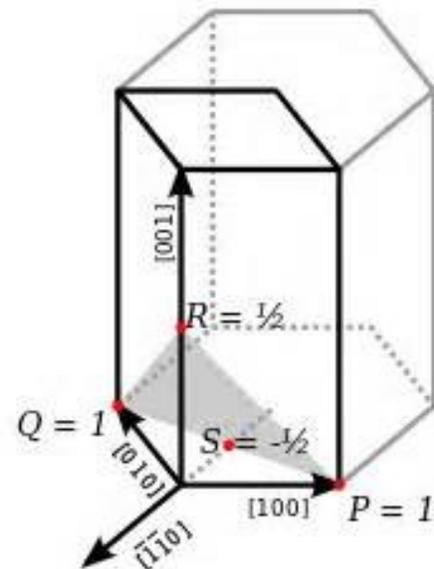
Al has been involved in hundreds of mineralogical publications and is now continuing his work at the Maine Mineral & Gem Museum along with the MP² group to continue in the role of Research Technologist.



Topics will include crystal systems, forms, habits and an introduction to Miller Indices. Crystallography is very difficult to learn from a book but is easier to understand from a good presentation. Make sure to attend to know more about the beautiful crystals you collect.



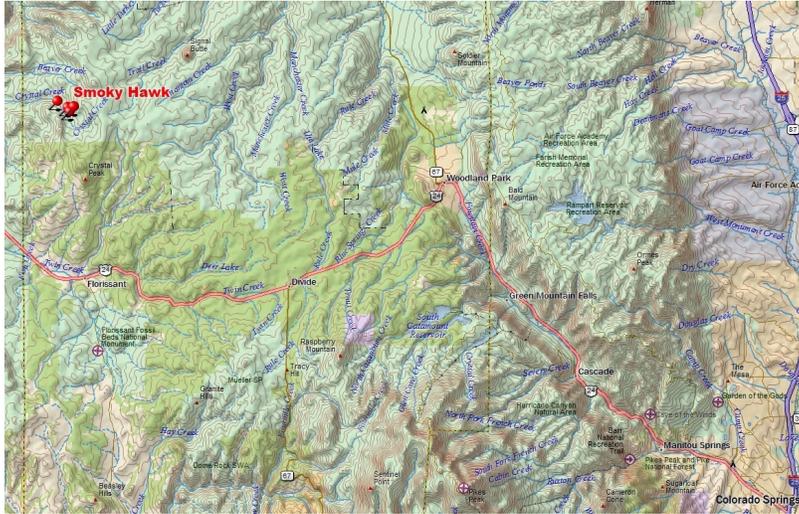
Al at the microprobe analyzing mineral specimens for identification of the species.



Rocky Mountain High

Collecting trip to Smoky Hawk claim

By: Don Dallaire



Above: Map of the area with Colorado Springs in the lower right hand corner and the Smoky Hawk claim in the upper left about 40 miles from Colorado Springs. This area is in the Front Range of the Rocky mountains.

We arrived in Manitou Springs which is just outside Colorado Springs at Days Inn where we stayed for the week. Our hotel was in the shadow of Pikes Peak giving us a great scene on leaving the motel to drive to the collecting area. We arrived at the Smoky Hawk claim at about 10:00 AM Wednesday. The Weather Channel film crew was there as well as Joe and George Quist who has worked with the Dorris family for many years.



Above: View of Pike's Peak from our motel

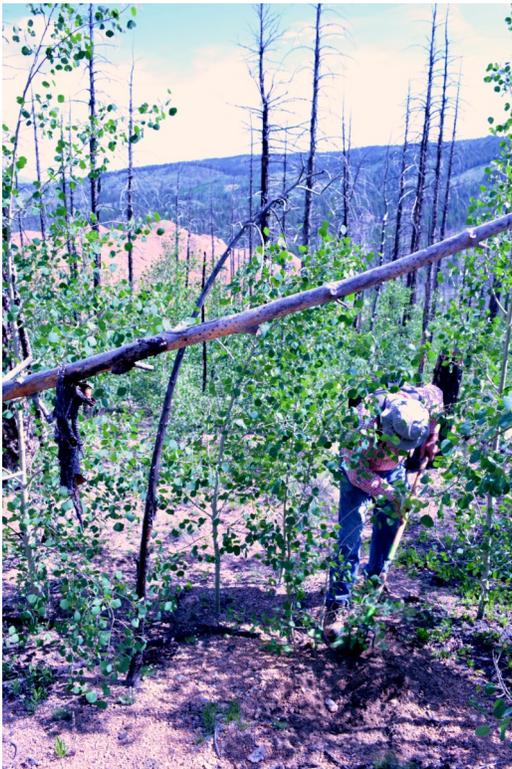
Gordon Jackson and I

were invited in February by Joe Dorris to visit his claims and do some collecting. Joe and his family are known to many as stars of the TV show "Prospectors" which airs on the Weather channel. The Dorris family has claims along Crystal Creek near Lake George as well as in the Tarryall Mountains and on Mount Antero. The Tarryall mountains are known for topaz and Mount Antero for the beryl variety aquamarine. We went to the Crystal Creek area and began at the Smoky Hawk claim being worked currently for the microcline variety amazonite and smoky quartz.

With drilling going on Gordon and I had to be out of the Smoky Hawk working area so we began prospecting Joe's claims above and to the east of the Smoky Hawk.

The area is open woods with no underbrush or downed trees, making easy walking. The ground was all rotten granite (grus) and there was little sign of mineralization save a bit of white quartz. We dug several prospect holes but had no luck. It did help us get used to the 9000 foot elevation, however. The method most people seem to use is to dig shallow holes hoping to hit a pegmatite to follow or be very lucky to hit a near surface pocket.

Later in the afternoon we were allowed to collect at the upper Smoky Hawk claim and Gordon found a few small < 3cm crystals and we each could keep one and returned the rest.



Above: Gordon scratching around trying to find signs of pegmatite



Above: Small prospect hole I dug following small pegmatite



Above: Looking down on Smoky Hawk on way to day one collecting area.



Left: Arrow marks day one area with Smoky Hawk in right center of picture.

On day 2, Thursday, June 25th, we went to the north side of the Smoky Hawk across a reclaimed area and prospected there. Although some coarse microcline was found we could not trace it to its source. At about noon time we returned to the car and had lunch with Joe, Tim and Krystal Dorris. Gordon had his lobster sandwich (fig newtons) and I had my roast beef (buffalo jerky). After lunch we went back to the upper portion of the Smoky Hawk (lower portion still being drilled for blasting) and poked around, scraping the walls but not finding much. A friend of the Dorris family visiting from Texas began using a pick on the wall and shouted out that he had hit a pocket. Immediately, Tim Dorris came to run the excavator and began scraping the walls very slowly. Then a shout rang out to stop and Tim went to the wall and announced a major pocket had been hit. Also a surface pocket just above it had also been opened. At that point it was “everybody”, meaning Gordon & me, out of the area and then the Weather Channel filming crew descended like ants to a sugar cube and began filming the excavation of the pocket. After taking some photographs, we left for the day. Later on we learned that 20 flats of crystals had been removed but not much amazonite. Hope to see some of these specimens in Tucson.



*Above left: Drilling lower pegmatites
Above right: Reclaimed area just to the north of the Smoky Hawk
Left: Tim working the excavator removing wall inch by inch to not damage the pocket by taking any large chunks out of the wall.*



Left: Exposed pegmatite and pocket marked by arrow. Note marks from excavator bucket teeth. Below: Tim pointing out the pocket to Krystal before beginning to remove the contents.



*Above: Tim Dorris pointing out the surface pocket as film crew begins marching in with all their equipment
Right: Film crew starting filming and bringing in more equipment. George Quist in silver hard hat. Person in blue shirt in both is the film crew supervisor.*





The frenzy continues



To be continued



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

September 5-6, 2015: Augusta, Maine

26th Annual Rockhounters Gem & Mineral Show
[The Kennebec Rocks & Minerals Club](#) National Guard Armory (Western Avenue, Augusta)

September 12-13, 2015: North Adams, MA. 52nd Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, Eagles Hall #310 515 Curran Highway, Rte 8, Sponsored by The Northern Berkshire Mineral Club.

October 17-18, 2015: Bristol, CT.

43rd Annual Gem & Mineral Show
[Bristol Gem and Mineral Club](#) Beals Community Center (240 Stafford Avenue)

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