



CRYSTALS AND CABS

Newsletter of the Capital Mineral Club Concord, New Hampshire

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April 2009

Volume 9 Issue 8

Capital Mineral Club News

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The Capital Mineral Club membership meeting will be on Saturday, April 4th at 2:00 PM at the Audubon Society Building on Silk Farm Road in Concord, NH, a board of directors meeting will be held at 12:00 PM before the regular business meeting.

The speaker this month will be Pat Barker she will be giving a presentation on the Geology, Glaciology, Animals and Birds of Antarctica. Mineral of the month will be minerals of Antarctica.

Refreshments this month will be supplied by Bob and Edna Whitmore.

Editors Note:

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

- My e-mail address:
steffenh@comcast.net
- CMC Website:
www.capitalmineralclub.org
- Website designed and maintained by:
Robin Edgewood-Reece & Steffen Hermanns

2009 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE! MEMBERSHIP RATES:

Adult Single \$10 per year; Family \$15 per year;

Please make checks payable to the "CAPITAL MINERAL CLUB" and submit or mail them to: Steffen Hermanns at the address above.

Please take the time to read up on **SENATE BILL 166-FN** Topic: Proposed Amendment to Chapter 12-E mining and reclamation. It will be posted on the clubs website as well as a response letter written by Jim Tovey to H. Janeway & Senator B. Odell. The ongoing status of this Bill can be viewed at the following web site www.gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_status and search for SB166

We wish to inform you of a Club Field Trip To Mount Mica and the Emmons Mine in Maine On July 18th and 19th We will be staying at the Poland Mining Camps see there web site at <http://www.polandminingcamps.com> The Camp will provide the group with lodging for Saturday night as well as lunch and dinner for Saturday and breakfast and lunch for Sunday. The cost will be \$50.00 per person for the weekend and the Club will pay \$150.00 of the cost. It will be the members' responsibility to get to the Poland Mining Camps, we suggest trying to carpool as much as possible. The Saturday Field Trip will be to Mount Mica. The Sunday Field Trip will be to the Emmons Mine. Please let the club secretary Steffen Hermanns know if you will be going as the club will need a \$50 deposit from each person this will serve a commitment and reserve your space on the trips. We need to make the reservations as quickly as we can please do not wait to commit as the number of spots is limited.

The Club is looking for volunteers to form a nominating committee to chose candidates for the upcoming positions for the Board of Directors and Auditor as well as President and Vice President for the years 2010 and 2011.



A meeting of the Board was held at 12 noon, at which By-Law changes were reviewed and how mineral rights might be compromised to 5 existing mines. Also discussed were the proposed changes to existing law regarding prospecting on state lands.

These are the minutes of the March 7th, 2009 meeting of the Capital Mineral Club.

The meeting was held at the Audubon Society Building on Silk Farm Road in Concord, New Hampshire.

The meeting was called to order at 2:14pm by President Robert Whitmore. There was a quorum of members in attendance.

Reports:

- ◆ Frances Gill made a motion to accept the Secretary's report of the February meeting, seconded by Gordon Graham; unanimously moved by the membership without amendment.
- ◆ The Treasurer's report was read by President Whitmore, Bill Burroughs made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as read, seconded by Gordon Graham. Income was \$80.77 since the last meeting and no expenses have been recorded for the month. On a question from Bill Brown regarding auditors, President Whitmore explained that an outside audit is appropriate at this time to ensure that we are consistent to IRS tax laws to retain our exempt status. The Treasurer's Report was approved by the membership.

Old Business:

- ◆ President Whitmore briefly discussed the forthcoming field trips this summer as proposed at the February meeting. If Mount Mica is not available, we might do an overnight to Mount Apatite.
- ◆ By-Laws revision is nearly finished and will be presented at the April meeting for member approval. All members should have received an electronic copy.

New Business:

- ◆ Pat Barker brought to the attention of the meeting a handout regarding a "micromounters" meeting to be held in the near future.
- ◆ President Whitmore spoke on a proposed revision to NH Statutes regarding mining, extraction, and reclamation, now in the Senate. This bill is SB-166, which revises NHRSA 12-E in definitions and possible exploration. There was discussion on a recent hearing attended by Jim Tovey and Bob Whitmore held by the Senate committee and the Department of Environmental Services (DES) who requested the bill. Concern was expressed that the bill would limit or eliminate Club opportunities on both state and private lands. President Whitmore requested that himself, Charles Forsberg, and Jim Tovey act as a committee to represent this Club at the next scheduled hearing on this bill. [NOTE: as of March 11, 2009, this bill was "re-referred" to committee.]

Door prize winners:

- ◆ Unfortunately, the acting secretary failed to record the items, the donors, and the winners of this month's prizes. This will be corrected at the next meeting.

Monthly program speaker:

- ◆ This month was to be a DVD presentation given by Frank Melanson at the 22nd Annual Rochester Mineral Symposium on Baia Mare, Romania: Its Mines and Minerals, but the room we occupied did not have appropriate video equipment so the program had to be cancelled. President Whitmore will correct this so that it should not happen again.

Meeting was adjourned at about 3:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles P. Forsberg, acting Secretary

**Capital Mineral Club
Concord, New Hampshire**

Two-Day Rock and Mineral Fest: Gilsum, New Hampshire

With many of our clubs starting field trip activities as early as April or May, by the time the end of June arrives, we are all digging deep into summer collecting schedules. Perhaps it is time to stop, take a breath and do some relaxing off usual beaten roads. The small town of Gilsum, New Hampshire is just the place to take a side step into a less harried environment.

For over fifty years the little town of Gilsum was a successful mining mecca. At one time the region boasted over sixty working mines and prospects. Cheap imports eventually cut into the once bustling American mining economy and the pegmatite-laden mines fell silent.

In 1964 local residents decided to revive a sense of community and pride in their past by establishing an annual rock swap. In fairly short time, the rock and mineral swap, with exploring and collecting trips to local mines put Gilsum back on the map. The project funded recreation activities for the town's children during the subsequent summer months.

Now in the 45th year the quiet little New Hampshire town still raises recreational funds for the children on the very same school grounds. During the fourth weekend in June, the town library sponsors its annual book sale; old mine maps are still available. The members of the Ashuelot Grange serve up a pancake breakfast with genuine maple syrup. The American Legion has hot dogs and burgers on an open grill in a shady grove of trees, and Sunday a chicken barbeque is the main event. A glass of cool lemonade is sold by the ladies of the Gilsum Historical Society on the hottest of days. All of these fund raising activities, plus over 70 dealers and swappers, make the show a special event under open June skies.

The highpoint, for many participants and visitors, is a Saturday evening "all-you-can-eat" family style ham and bean supper. Once held in the social hall of the Gilsum Congregational church, the feast is now held in the school's addition; a new "cafetorium." The supper is a special and meaningful fellowship because some of the money raised through the years of the mineral show was invested to provide for expansion of the school.

The years haven't all been kind to the show. Old-timers will tell you they once had over 5,000 visitors attend the two-day event. Now attendance may well be less than one-third that figure. The local mines and properties have seen more privatization and escorted tours are a thing of the past; however, the Beaugard Mine is still available for collecting beryl by arrangement during dates of the show. Also, just up the road, between Gilsum and East Alstead, there are still a few sites to explore on an afternoon drive.

Besides the small and friendly community fair environment pervading the show, there are some local natural areas and geological attractions; such as ice age rocks forming "bear dens" and glacial potholes. Any local resident can provide directions to these attractions.

The changes through the years haven't diminished the spirit for the show. An enthusiastic group of camp followers, show goers, and community participants keep it alive. For all who have attended for many years, a grand feeling of accomplishment is seen in the new addition to the school.

This year a guest speaker will top off Saturday night's supper. Nancy Millard* will give a presentation on collecting in New England at 7:00pm on Saturday night. She will share her adventures, talk about the best collecting sites and have a handout about some of those sites that you can take with you.

Located off Route 10 and just north of Keene, in the beautiful Ashuelot Valley, the village of Gilsum is the very place to stop and enjoy. The charm of the area will ultimately encourage an annual return. It is a small stop off expressways and highways on one of the calmer byways of mining and collecting history.

Don't miss a stopover at Gilsum. We have been returning to this quaint location since 1997. This year the show is on June 27-28. With 5,000 to 8,000 guests in the area, start planning your trip to Gilsum **NOW!**

SWAPPERS INVITED: Gilsum, NH June 27-28, 8am - 6pm. and 8am - 4pm.
Contact Rob Mitchell at gilsumrocks@gmail.com. Tell Rob that Don Kauffman was your contact.

*Nanch Millard is a member of the Rhode Island Mineral Hunters rock and mineral club. She is an avid mineral collector and one of the club Field Trip Coordinators.

Mineral Clubs - Meeting Dates

Saco Valley Gem and Mineral Club: 3rd Thursday 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

Nashua: Last Wednesday of each month at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court Street, Nashua, NH – 7:00 PM
webpages.charter.net/carlog/Index.htm

North Shore (MA): 3rd Friday of each month, St. Paul Episcopal Church, Washington St., Peabody, MA – 7:30 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 the North Country Education Services Center; 300 Gorham Hill; Gorham, NH – 7:00 PM

Micromounters of New England: 3rd Saturday of the month at the Trinity Lutheran Church, 170 Old Westford Rd, Chelmsford, MA - 9:00AM; micromountersofnewengland.org

From: James S Tovey, This is my assessment of the hearing I attended and participated in.

Meeting Review: Energy, Environment & Economic Development Committee Hearing SB-166-FN on February-19-2009 , Topic: Proposed Amendment to Chapter 12-E mining and reclamation.

Meeting in general:

Non-committee, participating attendants consisted of the Department of Environmental Safety (DES) & Department of Resources & Economic Development (DRED) personnel , the State Geologist, Lobbyists for the NH municipalities and the sand, gravel & aggregate industry, 2 private mineral rights owners. The hearing was cordial and informative.

Hearing points of interest,

1. During the 29 years of 12-E only 2 permits have been granted and none denied.
2. An overview by the DES representatives of the reasons for their proposed amendments and their desire for added 12-E regulatory permit involvement. Their goal was to bring the 12-E to the 21st century & to implement the present permit regulation & rules into 12-E.

Dissenting Considerations:

1. The addition of added state departments and local boards will undermine the commissioner's authority and effectiveness. You also lose some level of accountability.
2. The standardizing of the rules is a good idea and should be done. These rules and stipulations should be added to the application as clearly defined questions and requests. For example use DES permits that are required or reviewed.
3. 12-E mine area, exemption clause change of 5 acres to 100,000 sq ft. The request is based on the DES implementing a present DES rule. A lot of their present rules and regulation are designed for projects of less than 3 years. Mine operations are long term (over 10 years). The main restriction per the present rule is the 2000 cubic yards of excavated material. The area restriction will negatively affect the safety & efficient mine infrastructure.

NH municipalities lobbyist.

1. Implied that they want full veto rights to any mining in their community.

Dissenting Consideration:

1. The state has an established mandate to protect property rights from unwarranted restrictive zoning laws, regulations and rules.

The Sand & Gravel & dimensional crushed stone lobbyist.

1. Apologized to the hearing panel about his clients and members for their rough correspondence to the State Senators about the 12-E amendment. He explained that his organization had thought this regulation would cover them also.

Dissenting Consideration:

1. Are the two Hard rock mining regulation that dissimilar?
2. Standardize the hard rock mining regulations into one regulation. For the different type and scale of the hard rock mining operations sub-chapter them in the regulation. The mine types to be sub chaptered. Can be base on the mines total excavation and amount of material to be removal from the operations property.

(Tovey & Whitmore) Mineral Rights, Property owners.

Their main concerns are the negative value and use limitations the amended regulation will have on the deeded mineral property rights.

1. The change of the 5 acres to a 2 acres area exemption on present mining operations.
2. The added complexity caused by proposed added rules.
3. The loss of the one state department. with sole authority to administer & regulate 12-E. The proposed addition of DES and local boards further complicates & confuses the 12-E permit process.

Dissenting Consideration:

1. All deeded mineral rights that have been documented by the geological survey professional paper #255 & Beryl Resources of NH should be reviewed as to their 12-E status. (These documents give geological description, operation report, general & structural mine maps.)
2. Impact to date and amended 12-E future impact to the NH mining industry. The present 12-E impact to the mining industry is a difficult & expensive permit process. With the proposed changes, 12-E will become a greater barrier to any future mining expansion or new mining ventures.
3. The Senate SB 166 hearing was a good first step in exposing the parties to some of New Hampshire's small scale mining operations. This effort should be broadened to a round table type format with the New Hampshire geologist and vested parties.

In conclusion:

The overall workability of the 12-E regulation is not good. Having had only 2 granted permits in it's 29 year history indicates the regulation is restrictive. Making the regulation more informative with an educational tone would be a good goal. This can be done by enhancing and standardizing the permit application. A short example: the designed application can obtain personal, general company information and mine project descriptions. The application should specify what permits are required.

There is a general lack of information about New Hampshire mining. A case in point: our neighbor state of Maine promotes their present and past mining heritage. The Maine tourmaline tag line is used for tourist, retail and general state promotions. The Maine State Geological survey is very active in helping the gem & mineral mining and hobby collecting effort. Maine State Geological survey helps sponsor the Maine Mineral Symposium held every year in May. The State of Maine in general has embraced their mining heritage and used it as a state asset. New Hampshire should follow Maine's lead.

My suggestion is for the regulation sponsors and committee Senators visit the Gilsum Rock swap held in Gilsum NH, June 27 & 28-2009. This year's event will be its 45 year. The event is sponsored by the Gilsum recreation & fire departments. It celebrates the present and past mineral mining activities of the Keene district pegmatite's and other mineral localities.



Steffen Hermanns
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Keep on Rockin' in the Free World

Email: steffenh@comcast.net

WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.CAPITALMINERALCLUB.ORG

2009 Club Dues are due please send your dues to Steffen Hermanns

CAPITAL MINERAL CLUB MEETINGS

APRIL 4, 2009

Board of Directors Meeting: **12:00PM**
 Club Meeting: **2:00PM**
 Speaker: Pat Barker, Geology, Glaciology,
 Animals and Birds of Antarctica
 Refreshments: Bob & Edna Whitmore

MAY 2, 2009

Board of Directors Meeting: **12:00PM**
 Club Meeting: **2:00PM**
 Speaker: TBA
 Refreshments: Charles Forsberg

JUNE 6, 2009

Weekend
 Field Trip TBA

JULY 18,19, 2009

Saturday and Sunday
 Field Trip Poland Mining Camp
 Mount Mica, Emmons Mine

AUGUST 1, 2009

Weekend
 Field Trip TBA

SEPTEMBER 5, 2009

Board of Directors Meeting: **12:00PM**
 Club Meeting **2:00PM**
 Speaker TBA
 Refreshments TBA

GEM & MINERAL SHOWS

April 23 - 26, Rochester Mineralogical Symposium, Rochester, NY. Radisson Hotel, Rochester NY. Steve Chamberlain - Chairman sccham2@yahoo.com
 Helen Chamberlain - Registrar (315) 682-0387 contactrms@hotmail.com Bruce Gaber - Exhibits (301) 654-7479 sun@visionrising.com

May 2 - 3, 46th annual retail and wholesale show; North Shore Rock & Mineral Club; Topsfield Fairgrounds, Coolidge Hall & Trade Bldg., Rte. 1 N. Topsfield, MA; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; contact Joe Weisberg, (781) 861-6653; e-mail: mw29@verizon.net; Web site: www.nahant.com/nsrnc/

May 8 - May 10, Augusta, ME, 20th Annual Maine Mineral Symposium, Senator Inn and Conference Center, Augusta, ME 207-287-7178, contact woodrow.b.thompson@maine.gov

May 16, Auburn, MA, Micromounters of New England, 2009 Annual Mini Symposium, Guest Speaker Laszlo Horvath presenting Rare Earth Minerals of Mont Saint-Hilaire, Contact Joe Mulvey 603-880-4018 www.micromountersofnewengland.org

June 27-28, 2008, Gilsum, NH - 45th Annual Rock Swap. Gilsum Elementary School and Community Center. Robert Mitchell 603-357-9636 gilsum-rocks@gmail.com,

July 18-19 North Conway NH, 45th Saco Valley Gem & Mineral Club Annual Show! Note new location & date Community Center downtown 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Saturday, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm Sunday, Silent Auction Saturday, Dealer information: Bob York, 603 356 4424 e-mail: quartzhunteraol.com

August 29-30, Concord, NH - 46th Annual Gem and Mineral Festival presented by the Capital Mineral Club, Sat. 9 – 5, Sun., 9 – 4, Everett Arena, Concord, NH, Adults – \$4.00, 12 and under free