



CRYSTALS AND CABS

Newsletter of the Capital Mineral Club Concord, New Hampshire

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April 2010

Volume 10 Issue 8

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: steffenh@comcast.net
- CMC Website: www.capitalmineralclub.org
- Website designed and maintained by: Robin Edgewood-Reece & 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, April 3rd at 2:00 PM at the Audubon Society Building on Silk Farm Road in Concord, NH, a board of directors meeting and a show committee meeting will be held at 12:00 PM before the regular business meeting.

This months speaker Jim Nizamoff will be unable to attend, instead we have a video on the Stewart Lithia Mine in Pala, CA. Mineral of the month will be California Minerals. We might be able to get Jim for the May meeting. This months refreshments will be provided by Edna Whitmore. Thanks To Michael Dyber for his presentation on “Gems From The Mind”, a pleasure as always. Also thanks to Terry and Annette for bringing refreshments.

**2010 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE!
MEMBERSHIP RATES:**

Adult Single \$10 per year; Family \$15 per year(2 Adults);
 Please make checks payable to the
“CAPITAL MINERAL CLUB”
 and submit or mail them to:
 Steffen Hermanns
 7133 Oak Hill Road
 Loudon, NH 03307

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: The Nashua Club is in a period of suspension of many of its traditional activities, but a core group of members plans to continue with some field trips and group participation at the Gilsum Rock Swap.

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 7: 00 P.M. North Country Education Services Center; 300 Gorham Hill; Gorham, NH



These are the minutes of the March 6th, 2010 meeting of the Capital Mineral Club. The meeting was held at the Audubon Society Building on Silk Farm Road in Concord, New Hampshire. Meeting called to order at 2:07 pm by president Robert Whitmore, there were 35 members present, 3 guests

Secretary's report: A motion was made by Frances Gill to accept the January minutes as posted in the newsletter seconded by Pat Barker, the membership passed the motion.

Treasurers report: Don Dallaire was not present not many transactions this month. a motion to accept was made by Steffen Hermanns and seconded by Michael Dyber the membership passed the motion.

Correspondence: None.

Old Business:

Need to form a nominating committee, Annette Comeau and John McCrory volunteered.

We will have an outside auditor to check the clubs books this year.

Bill Brown asked Jim Tovey about going to his mine this year but he is all booked for this year, he suggests that the club go on September 17,18 of 2011. Jim Tovey gave some details on the rules of the visit and stated that there is a limit of 25 people.

The Maine trip for July is full with 23 people for staying in the cabins, people can still sign up but they are on their own for lodging or camping. Meals and Collecting trip is included in the \$100.00 price tag. Bob Whitmore reminded the membership that the trip up to Palermo Mine to view the Ice on Sunday March 6th. Meet at the gate at 10am.

New Business:

Gordon Jackson presented the new case proposal to the membership these case are made of tempered glass and an aluminum frame, lighting is as close to daylight as possible and they come with a carrying case. The cost is about 7500.00 for six cases everything plus shipping included. Jim Tovey said the LED lights don't work well with blue minerals, but these are the old types of lights. Scott Higgins made a motion that the Club purchase the six cases proposed by the board, Frances Gill seconded the motion. If the lights do not perform as expected then we will return them and get alternate lighting. Steffen brought up that the club could rent the case to other clubs to recoup some of the costs. Membership accepted the motion by the club. If anyone in the club wants to piggyback onto the clubs order they would be eligible for a discount.

Old USGS Maps brought in by Gordon Jackson free for club members to take.

Pearl Nadeau and Jen Carroll have volunteered to help with the newsletter and website.

Need a nominating committee for May elections, need President, Auditor, and Director.

Door Prizes: Thank you to Mike Undercofler, Terry Crowell and Pat Barker for donating door prize specimens. Winners were: Pam Jackson, Marlene York, Guest, Frances Gill, Kathy Welker and Pat Barker

Meeting adjourned at 2:50pm.

The presentation on "Gems From The Mind" was presented by Michael Dyber.

Respectfully submitted
Steffen Hermanns
Secretary

Capital Mineral Club
Concord, New Hampshire

Tourmalines

Tourmaline seems to have a special place in the hearts of mineral collectors as well as in that of gem and gemstone enthusiasts. Its nearly universal popularity is based on two very important facts: first, it is a bright and beautiful gemstone that can be found in just about any color; and second, materials that are of acceptable quality are affordable to most purchasers. The word "rainbow" is used figuratively to describe tourmaline. In reality, it is a well recognized fact that tourmaline's diversity in color is not limited to the seven colors of the rainbow. Tourmaline can be colorless to just about any color, hue, or tone known to man. And if range of colors among different tourmalines is not enough, individual crystals can vary in color along their length or in cross-section.

The variations in color along a crystal's length give rise to the bicolor and tricolor tourmalines which have multitudes of color combinations. The variation in color in cross-section can be concentric, as in the case of "watermelon" tourmaline, a pink core surrounded by a green rind. Or the variation may have a distinct triangular pattern as in the case of liddicoatite.

California --Tourmaline was, until recently, the single largest contributor to the value of gemstones produced from California. And for the past 5 years, California has ranked as high as second and as low as sixth in the value of natural gemstone produced in the United States. The State's fabulous tourmalines were discovered by the gemstone industry in the late 1870's or early 1880's. The caveat, discovery by the gemstone industry, is used because Native Americans discovered and used these beautiful tourmalines long before that. Since their discovery, the tourmaline deposits in Riverside and San Diego Counties have had more tourmaline produced and of greater value than any other deposits in the Northern Hemisphere. In fact, it is probable that only the deposits in Brazil have been more productive. One of the reasons for the productivity of the area is the longevity of the individual mines. Many of them have operated intermittently from the 1890's until the present. The famous Himalaya Mine is quite likely the best example. Records indicate that from 1898 until 1914, the Himalaya was the world's largest producer of tourmaline. Furthermore, the records indicate that in 1904 production from the mine was at least 5.5 metric tons. In 1989, 84 years later, a single pocket in the mine produced more than 0.5 metric ton of tourmaline. The history of production from the mine is not one of steady continuous operation. The mine operated continuously from 1898 until 1914, after which it operated sporadically until 1952. At this time, it once again began continuous operations that lasted until 1964 when it returned to intermittent operation until 1977. Since then the mine has been in operation under the direction of Pala International.

California tourmalines come in all colors except certain shades of blue and yellow. They also occur in bicolors, tricolors, and concentrically and laterally zoned combinations. Crystals vary in diameter from about 3 millimeters to as much as 125 millimeters, and vary in length from about 12 millimeters to as much as 250 millimeters. Because of the large size of the crystals available, some large stones have been cut from California tourmaline. A 400-carat pink-red stone has been cut, as well as a flawless 75 carat green to pink bicolor and flawless 30- to 40 carat green to colorless to pink tricolored stones. California deposits should continue to produce quantities of faceting, carving, and cabochon grade, as well as specimen-grade tourmalines for some time into the future. In late 1992, a new deposit of tourmaline was discovered in Riverside County that could result in greater production over even a longer period of time.

Maine --Tourmaline was the first gemstone mined in the United States by miners other than prehistoric man or Native Americans. Tourmaline mining began at Mount Mica, ME, in 1822 and, with starts and stops, has continued to the present. In 1992, operations at Mount Mica produced both gem-quality and mineral specimen tourmaline. Over the years, mining operations on Mount Mica produced hundreds of kilograms of tourmaline. Museums and private collections around the world contain outstanding examples of tourmaline from the deposit. The largest reported crystal from the site apparently is one that is 39.4 centimeters long, 17.8 centimeters wide, and weighs about 14.3 kilograms. Apparently, a flawless, blue-green 256-carat stone is the largest cut stone from Mount Mica. Mount Mica may have been the first tourmaline producer in Maine, but it is by no means the largest. Newry Hill, a spur off Plumbago Mountain, or more specifically the Dunton Mine on Newry Hill, is the most prolific tourmaline producer in Maine. Since its discovery in 1898, production from the mine has exceeded thousands of kilograms of high-quality tourmaline. The mine's ability to yield large quantities of quality tourmaline was clearly demonstrated by Plumbago Mining Corp. The company reported that from October 1972 until the Fall of 1974, it produced more than one metric ton of fine-quality tourmaline. Other mines and quarries in a three county area produce gem- and specimen-grade tourmalines. The level and type of activities at each mine or quarry vary from year to year. Currently, most of them are open to hobbyist or professional collectors for a fee or with the owners permission.

Maine tourmalines come in a wide variation of colors, deep grass green to light green to yellow-green to blue green. They are also found in all shades of red, from pink to deep red, and blue-green to light blue to deep blue, and as colorless crystals. The State's mines also produce bicolors and watermelon crystals. The colors can be very fine and some believe that Maine tourmalines set the standard for non-chrome green tourmaline.



Steffen Hermanns

Editor

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

Email: steffenh@comcast.net

WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.CAPITALMINERALCLUB.ORG

2010 Club Dues are due please send your dues to Steffen Hermanns

Capital Mineral Club Meetings & Events

APRIL 3, 2010

Board of Directors Meeting: **12:00PM**
Club Meeting: **2:00PM**
Speaker: Video, Stewart Lithia Mine, Pala, CA
Display Mineral: California Minerals
Refreshments: Edna Whitmore

MAY 1, 2010

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

JULY 9-11, 2010

Poland Mining Camps Field Trip

SEPTEMBER 4, 2010

Board of Directors Meeting: **12:00PM**
Club Meeting: **2:00PM**
Speaker: TBD
Refreshments: Steffen Hermanns

Gem & Mineral Shows

May 1-2 -- TOPSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS: 47th annual show, "New England Mineral & Gem Show"; North Shore Rock & Mineral Club; Topsfield Fairgrounds, Rte. 1; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$5 (\$1 off with ad), seniors \$3, children under 12 free; retail and wholesale dealers, door prizes, exhibits, mineral and fossil identification, gold panning, geode cracking, spin-a-gem, mineral sifting; contact Joe Weisberg, 29 Justin St., Lexington, MA 02420, (781) 861-6653; e-mail: nsrmc@verizon.net; Web site: www.nahant.com/nsrmc

June 26-27 -- GILSUM, NEW HAMPSHIRE: Show, "Gilsum Rock Swap and Mineral Show"; Town of Gilsum; Gilsum Elementary School, Rte. 10; Sat. 8-6, Sun. 8-4; free admission; more than 60 dealers, buy, sell or swap, beryl, quartz crystals, semiprecious stones, rocks, minerals, displays (specimens, fossils, hand-crafted jewelry); contact Rob Mitchell, Gilsum Recreation Committee, P.O. Box 76, Gilsum, NH 03448, (603) 357-9636; e-mail: gilsumrocks@gmail.com

August 28-29 -- CONCORD, NH: 47th Annual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Festival— Capital Mineral Club, Everett Areana, Concord, NH, Sat 9am to 5pm, Sun 10am to 4pm, www.capitalmineralclub.org, steffenh@capitalmineralclub.org