



# CRYSTALS AND CABS

## Newsletter of the Capital Mineral Club Concord, New Hampshire

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### Capital Mineral Club News

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The Capital Mineral Club membership meeting will be on Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup> 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 for this month will be Bob Whitmore who will be giving his presentation 5 weeks in Africa. Mineral of the month will be minerals of Africa.

Refreshments this month will be supplied by Howard & Bea Ewing.

**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: 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  
 7133 Oak Hill Road  
 Loudon, NH 03307

The board of directors of the Capital Mineral Club are currently looking into organizing three major field trips this summer. The anticipated dates for these field trips will be on the first Saturday weekend of the months of June, July and August. The projected locations of these field trips are: Herkimer, NY, Greens Farm, CT and Mount Mica, ME. The board will come up with details at the next few meetings.

Also please copy or print out the show flyer that is included in your newsletter or as an attachment to your email. These are the flyers for our annual show and we would like club members to help distribute these, word of mouth advertising is very powerful, you can help make this years show the best turnout ever. So please do your part and promote the show whenever you can, remember that the show income pays for the scholarships, the club trips, monthly speakers as well as many other expenses incurred throughout the year.



These are the minutes of the January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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 2:00pm by President Robert Whitmore. There were 25 members in attendance plus our guest speaker Marlene Friedrich from the Audubon who will give a presentation about the Birds of Prey. The business meeting was postponed until after the speakers presentation.

#### Reports:

- ◆ A motion was made by Frances Gill to accept the December Secretaries report, seconded by Donald Dallaire, so moved by the membership.
- ◆ The treasurer's report was read by Donald Dallaire. A motion to accept was made by Scott Higgins and seconded by Frances Gill, so moved by the membership.
- ◆ Donald Dallaire presented the 2009 budget that the board of directors recommends for the clubs approval. A motion was made by Martin Kippley and seconded by Pat Barker, so moved by the membership.

Correspondence: None

#### Old Business:

- ◆ Suggestions for field trip on the month that the club does not meet. First Saturday of June, the 6<sup>th</sup>, first Saturday of July, the 4<sup>th</sup> and the first Saturday in August, the 1<sup>st</sup>. Locations discussed were Herkimer, NY; Greens Farm, CT; and Mount Mica, ME. Gordon Jackson made a motion that the club should go to Herkimer, New York for the July 4th weekend, the motion was seconded by Donald Dallaire. The board of directors will look into these locations and come up with details for these three weekends and present their findings to the membership.
- ◆ Robert Whitmore has looked at the Hoyt and Coleman Mines gift of mineral rights from Gordon Jackson to the club and recommends that the club take him up on the offer. The board will review Roberts findings and present an overall plan for the club on how and when this gift will be accepted as well as any limitations and or liabilities involved.
- ◆ Martin Kippley said that he still has perky boxes for anyone that would still like to buy some.

#### New Business:

- ◆ Pat Barker brought up an amusing article that she had come across in Mineral News about Radioactive minerals. Pat also mentioned the Lynn, MA mineral club had gone out of business in June of last year.
- ◆ Gordon Jackson would like to have the Show flyer published in the newsletter every month to get out word of mouth advertising for the clubs show in 2009.
- ◆ Steffen Hermanns asked the membership to submit some stories for content in the newsletter.
- ◆ Robert Whitmore brought up the proposed changes to the bylaws and wanted members to get their input back To Charles Forsberg before the next meeting.
- ◆ Gordon Jackson passed around the winners plaques for the December contest for label approval.

#### Door prize winners:

- ◆ Mike Undercofler and Pat barker both donated door prizes. The winners were Jim Tovey (who gave his ticket to Brook Cram), Frances Gill, Katrina Hermanns and John McCrory.

#### Speaker

- ◆ Our guest speaker Marlene Friedrich from the Audubon gave a presentation about the Birds of Prey, Marlene had a Bard Owl with her as she gave the presentation.

Meeting was Adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted  
Steffen Hermanns, Secretary

**Capital Mineral Club  
Concord, New Hampshire**

Story about Radioactive Minerals from the December 2008 Mineral News  
Submitted by Pat Barker

The collectors' displays—Sammler Vitriinen—are always a treat. Individual collectors bring specimens from their collection, illustrating a theme or a locality. This is an excellent opportunity to see material, which is not normally on public view. I was particularly thrilled by a comprehensive display of uraninite from Erzgebirge, presented by Walter Weber from Munchen around the theme “former uranium mining in Saxony.” Uranium minerals rival sulphides as the most interesting minerals available to collectors. Walter Weber's case showed specimens in a range of habits and associations from many deposits. Hopefully the display and the accompanying text will help dispel the fear of “radioactive” minerals. Minerals of uranium and thorium are interesting and beautiful. They have very complex chemistry due to multiple oxidation states of the elements and several, possible hydration states of the minerals.

When it comes to “radioactive minerals” (all minerals are radioactive), many people seem to base their logic on old Flash Gordon cartoons and totally switch off their sense of logic. Yes, you could die from a given particle of photon of radiation produced by a mineral with appreciable uranium or thorium. No, I cannot totally exclude the possibility. It is, however, unlikely - so unlikely that the risk is effectively non-existent. If you apply the “safety level” to other minerals, amethyst would be banned from jewelry and collections due to the risk of being killed by silicosis. Yes, a small piece could be abraded off your amethyst, that piece might be lodged in your lungs, causing silicosis, which is fatal. The risk is low, but it is not zero. Personally, I believe a piece of amethyst is at least as hazardous as a piece of uraninite.

I hope to see you at Mineralientage Munchen (October 30-November 1, 2009). In the meantime, please wear protective clothing and a face mask when close to your mineral collection; do not let children handle minerals, store all specimens in sealed boxes, do not touch specimens with bare hands and shower thoroughly after being in a room with mineral specimens. Say three Hail Mary's every time a mineral is named and you might make it to the next year. Evidently you will not enter the halls, just hang out outside... to be on the safe side!

### **Mineral Clubs - Meeting Dates**

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

**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](http://webpages.charter.net/carlog/Index.htm)

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

**Micromounters of New England:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month at the Trinity Lutheran Church, 170 Old Westford Rd, Chelmsford, MA - 9:00AM; [micromountersofnewengland.org](http://micromountersofnewengland.org)



Steffen Hermanns

Editor

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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)

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

**CAPITAL MINERAL CLUB MEETINGS**

**FEBRUARY 7, 2009**

Club Meeting: **2:00PM**

Speaker: Bob Whitmore  
Five Weeks In Africa

Refreshments: Howard & Bea Ewing

**MARCH 7, 2009**

Board of Directors Meeting: **12:00PM**

Club Meeting: **2:00PM**

Speaker: TBA  
Refreshments: Jack & Frances Gill

**APRIL 4, 2009**

Club Meeting: **2:00PM**

Speaker: TBA  
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**

Field Trip **Weekend**

TBA

**JULY 4, 2009**

Field Trip **Weekend**

TBA

**AUGUST 1, 2009**

Field Trip **Weekend**

TBA

**GEM & MINERAL SHOWS**

**Jan 31 - Feb 15, Tucson Mineral Show, Tucson, AZ**

**Feb 21 - 22, Albany, NY, 15th Annual James Campbell-Memorial Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show and Sale** Organized by: Capital District Mineral Club New York State Museum (Empire State Plaza on Madison Avenue) Website: <http://www.albanyrockclub.com>

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

**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](mailto:woodrow.b.thompson@maine.gov)

**June. 27-28, Gilsum, NH - 45th Annual Rock Swap.** Gilsum Elementary School and Community Center. Robert Mitchell [gilsumrocks@gmail.com](mailto:gilsumrocks@gmail.com), 603-357-9636

**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