



# CRYSTALS AND CABS

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

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### Capital Mineral Club News

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**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
- 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, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM at the Salvation Army Building on Clinton Street in Concord, NH. The Salvation Army building is located at the corner of Fruit Street and Clinton Street in Concord, NH, it is about a mile back into Concord from the Audubon down Clinton Street.

This month will feature a video presentation of the National Geographic Special on the Secrets of the Hope Diamond and if time permits a video on Gemstones.

Mineral of the month for displays will be Polished Gemstones and Cabs. Thanks to Mike Cordero for bringing Januarys refreshments.

This months refreshments will be provided by Bea Ewing.

**2012 Dues are due  
\$10.00 per individual  
Submit your dues payment to  
Capital Mineral Club c/o Steffen Hermanns**

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

**Saco Valley Gem and Mineral Club:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 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:** 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):** 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 7: 00 P.M. North Country Education Services Center; 300 Gorham Hill; Gorham, NH



These are the minutes of the January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012 meeting of the Capital Mineral Club. The meeting was held at the Salvation Army Building on Clinton Street in Concord, New Hampshire. There were 34 Members in attendance and 3 Guests. The meeting was called to order by President Gordon Jackson at 2:00pm.

**Meeting Minutes:** Motion made to accept the minutes as printed in the newsletter, by Carlos Gristani; seconded by Frances Gill; passed by the membership.

**Treasurers Report:** Don Dallaire read the treasurers report; a motion was made to accept the treasurers report as read subject to audit, by Martha Martel; seconded by Carlos Gristani; passed by the membership.

**Presentation:** Carl Francis did his presentation on Apatites.

**New Business:**

Silent Auction in May for left over stuff from the mineral club

Old Man of the Mountains Monument Brick Donation \$1000 price tag for 12 x 24 Brick Name and logo, tag line in memory of the great stone face. [www.oldmannh.org](http://www.oldmannh.org), individual donation sheet passed around by Gordon Jackson. Proposal club pays \$200 toward the brick. Members could make individual contributions towards the total cost of the brick.

Gift certificates for Club Show that will be good for any dealer were discussed and samples will be made by Gordon Jackson.

Working on making membership cards for the members was discussed.

Donated \$500.00 to the Salvation Army, got thank you letter from them.

Bill Brown talked about next month presentations from Nat Geo, choice between hope diamond, splendid stones or both if time permits

**Field Collecting Award Winners:** Lapidary award Larry Welker, Mineral Award Carlos Gristani, both were presented with Club Logo Sweatshirts.

**New Membership Applications:** Pat Barker made motion to accept new memberships, seconded by Donald Dallaire, passed by the membership.

**Door Prizes:** Thanks to Mike Undercofler , Pat Barker and Anna Wilkin for donating some door prizes. Pat Barker, Pearl Nadeau, Carlos Gristani, Dick York, Lisa Noel, Kathleen Welker, Nathaniel, Hanse and Frances Gill won door prizes.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:20pm

respectfully submitted.  
Steffen Hermanns  
Secretary

**Capital Mineral Club  
Concord, New Hampshire**

## A Brief History of the Hope Diamond: The World's Most Famous Gem

In 2005, a research team led by Smithsonian Institute gem curator Jeffrey Post determined in a year-long study that the world famous Hope Diamond was once a famous diamond called "The French Blue", part of King Louis XIV's long lost crown jewels stolen during the French Revolution.

The French Blue had originated as a 115-carat blue stone that was once the eye of an Indian religious statue. It was stolen in 1668 by Jean Baptiste Tavernier and then sold to France's Sun King, Louis XIV. Some say Tavernier's theft was the origin of the Hope Diamond's so-called "curse." More about this later.

As for Louis XIV, he had the stone "eye" cut into what became the 69-carat French Blue diamond in his crown jewels. In their research, the Smithsonian team used detailed sketches from the French royal court along with computer analysis comparisons to determine that the Hope Diamond was once Louis XIV's French Blue diamond.

While the French Blue diamond was considered long lost after the Revolution, a deep blue diamond of mysterious origins did wind up in the hands of a London diamond merchant in 1812. It eventually was sold to a New York jeweler who then sold it in 1839 to British social lion Henry Philip Hope, the gem's namesake. Although the Hope Diamond became world famous, its origins had remained unknown.

In 1901, Hope's heir, after a ten year court battle for possession, sold the diamond to yet another New York jeweler. It eventually wound up in the hands of legendary Paris jeweler Pierre Cartier. In 1910, Cartier sold it to American socialite Evalyn Walsh McLean. After her death in 1949, Harry Winston [Jewelers](#) bought it from her estate. In 1958, Winston donated the Hope Diamond to the Smithsonian. A strange sidenote: it was delivered to the Smithsonian via standard U.S. Mail.

### **The Curse**

The original "discoverer" of the French Blue diamond, Jean Baptiste Tavernier died of injuries sustained during a wild dog attack.

King Louis XIV, who bought the stone from Tavernier, died of gangrene.

King Louis XVI, who inherited the diamond, lost his head in the French Revolution as did his queen, Marie Antoinette, who wore the diamond.

Wilhelm Fals, a Dutch jeweler who owned the "mysterious blue diamond", was murdered by his son, who later committed suicide.

Lord Francis Hope, Henry Philip Hope's heir and diamond owner, suffered financial ruin and had to sell it.

Other owners also suffered misfortune. Jacques Colot committed suicide. Russian Prince Ivan Konitovski was murdered during the Russian Revolution. Greek merchant Simon Maoncharides died in a car accident. Persian merchant Habib Bey drowned. And the Hope Diamond's last owner (before Winston) socialite Evalyn Walsh McLean wound up in a mental institution.

### **SOURCES:**

<http://library.thinkquest.org/CO07446F/jinx.htm>

[http://www.pbs.org/treasuresoftheworld/a\\_nav/hope\\_nav/hnav\\_level\\_2/level2\\_pitch\\_curse\\_hopfrm.html](http://www.pbs.org/treasuresoftheworld/a_nav/hope_nav/hnav_level_2/level2_pitch_curse_hopfrm.html)

[http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/museum/1d\\_Hope\\_Diamond.html](http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/museum/1d_Hope_Diamond.html)

[http://www.si.edu/Encyclopedia\\_SI/nmnh/hope.htm](http://www.si.edu/Encyclopedia_SI/nmnh/hope.htm)

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/6946421/>

[http://www.pbs.org/treasuresoftheworld/a\\_nav/hope\\_nav/main\\_hopfrm.html](http://www.pbs.org/treasuresoftheworld/a_nav/hope_nav/main_hopfrm.html)



Steffen Hermanns

Editor

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

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WE'RE ON THE WEB  
[WWW.CAPITALMINERALCLUB.ORG](http://WWW.CAPITALMINERALCLUB.ORG)

**2012 Club Dues are due please send your dues to Steffen Hermanns**

**Capital Mineral Club Meetings & Events**

**FEBRUARY 4, 2012**

Club Meeting: **2:00PM**  
Speaker: National Geographic Video Secrets of the Hope Diamond  
Displays Polished Gems and Cabs  
Refreshments Bea Ewing

**MARCH 3, 2012**

Club Meeting: **2:00PM**  
Speaker: Tom Rich, NY Fossils  
Displays Fossils  
Refreshments Peter Cram

**APRIL 7, 2012**

Club Meeting: **2:00PM**  
Speaker: Howard Ewing, The Four C's of Faceting  
Displays Gem Cutting Material  
Refreshments Kerry Reynolds

**MAY 5, 2012**

Club Meeting: **2:00PM**  
Speaker: TBD  
Refreshments: TBD

**Gem & Mineral Shows**

**January 28 - February 12, 2012 — Tucson, AZ, Tucson Gem & Mineral Show**

**February 24-25—HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS: Western Mass Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show;** Connecticut Valley Mineral Club; Holyoke Hotel & Conference Center; I-91 Exit 15; Sat. 9:30-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$4, children (12 and under) and Scouts in uniform free with adult; minerals, gemstones, jewelry, crystals, beads, fossils, lapidary and mineral art, demonstrations, exhibits; contact Helen Rodak, (413) 586-6691; e-mail:

**April 21-22—STANDISH, MAINE: Annual show;** Maine Mineralogical & Geological Society; Saint Joseph's College; 278 Whites Bridge Rd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 9-4; adults \$4, seniors and students \$3, children free; gems, minerals, crystals, fossils, jewelry, gem-cutting and gold-panning, demonstrations, kids' mini-mine and spin wheel, silent auctions, door prizes, grand prize; contact Chad Cramer, 337 School St., Sanford, ME 04073, (207) 324-8610; e-mail: [rocks0102@myfairpoint.net](mailto:rocks0102@myfairpoint.net); Web site: [mainemineralclub.org](http://mainemineralclub.org)

**August 25-26 2012 — CONCORD, NH: 49th Annual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Festival—** Capital Mineral Club, Everett Arena, Concord, NH, Sat 9am to 5pm, Sun 10am to 4pm, [www.capitalmineralclub.org](http://www.capitalmineralclub.org), [steffenh@capitalmineralclub.org](mailto:steffenh@capitalmineralclub.org)