



# 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, March 5<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.

If the snow on Saturday causes us to cancel the meeting; Contact Charles Forsberg or check the website for the latest on cancellation or rescheduling.

This Months refreshments will be provided by Jack and Frances Gill. Martin Kippley will be our speaker doing a talk on Radioactive Minerals. Mineral of the month will be Radioactive Minerals.

**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.

**2011 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE!**  
**MEMBERSHIP RATES: Adult Single \$10 per year**  
 There is no more family rate  
 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:** 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:** 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 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011 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 2:10 pm by President Charles Forsberg, there were 19 members present.

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

Treasurers' report: A motion to accept was made by John McCrory and seconded by Tony Howd the membership passed the motion.

Correspondence: Capital District Mineral Clubs 18<sup>th</sup> annual gem, mineral and fossil show.

Old Business:

Grant Committee: We need a new Grant Committee, Don Dalliare, Robert Wilken and Robert Whitmore and Norman Miner have been appointed.

Membership lists and there upkeep as well as the website was discussed and Steffen will get other members involved to help.

2011 dues are due.

Field Trips: Toveco Tripp Mine on August 20<sup>th</sup> 2011 with a fee of \$10.00 per member limit of 22, this fee needs to be in by the March meeting.

Bill Brown trip to Alden NY on September 9<sup>th</sup> through the 11<sup>th</sup>; motels and campground nearby; need to sign-up by May meeting

Jon Herndon at the gulch in Ossipee NH good for new collectors.

Poland Mining Camp details will be discussed at the next meeting.

New Business:

Budget presented by and recommended by Donald Dallaire, a motion was made to accept the 2011 budget as presented by Gordon Jackson and seconded by Ellen Oberkoter, passed the membership.

New Membership applications presented motion made by Pat Barker to accept the new members and seconded by Gordon Jackson; motion passed by the membership.

Need to setup show committee meeting to discuss what needs to done for this year's show, date and time TBD

Door Prize donations by Pat Barker and Peter Cram

Door Prizes: Jack Gill, Steffen Hermanns, Gordon Jackson, John McCrory, Charles Forsberg and Frances Gill

Meeting adjourned at 4:00pm.

Speaker: Bill Brown, Faceting.

respectfully submitted.  
Steffen Hermanns  
Secretary

**Capital Mineral Club**  
**Concord, New Hampshire**

## The Peterborough Gold Mine

In my younger days, a friend of mine, Bob, and I used to visit various abandoned mines in the greater Cheshire County area looking for rocks and minerals.

We were fortunate enough to have the assistance of a fellow who owned a rock and mineral shop in Jaffrey. He told us about many collecting locals, and, in addition, we made extensive use of topographical maps. On one of the maps, the Monadnock quadrangle, we noticed a pair of crossed pick axes in the legend that indicating the existence of a “gold mine”. With dreams of getting rich quick, we pored over that map for what seemed like days trying to find that “gold mine”. We found it west of Peterborough and planned to visit there the next day. The plan was to for me to wake Bob at six the following morning and for us to head out to the mine.

On arriving the next morning, I attempted to wake him by tossing pebbles at his window – with no success. What I did manage to accomplish was to get the attention of his sister Gail who inquired what I was trying to do. That of course aroused Bob, who blurted out that we were “going to a Gold Mine!”, and of course, Gail asked if she could come along, and that she would make the sandwiches. For me, the idea of having to split the profits 3 ways wasn’t exactly appealing, but reluctantly relented – the sandwiches did sound good. Bob took his time getting ready, but finally we headed out. Once on the road, we got no more than about a couple hundred yards when some other friends appeared and asked “where are you guys going?” This time, it was Gail who shared our mission and they, of course wanted to come along. Bob and I mused that our share of the profits was shrinking rapidly – the split would now have to be five ways. Finally we were on our way to Peterborough and the gold mine.

On the map, the Goldmine appeared to be located in an area bounded on three sides by roads. When we arrived, we drove around this triangle expecting to see a sign saying “Get rich quick! Gold mine this way” After several passes, and not finding such a sign, we half heartedly wandered around through the woods and found nothing but lots of mosquitoes. Discouraged, we returned home and Bob and I vowed to return the following morning – alone.

The next day we got an early start and resumed our tour around the triangular with same results. On our travels, we saw an elderly fellow in a rocking chair on his porch, so we stopped and asked if he could direct us to the gold mine. Well, this fellow started laughing like crazy and told that we would find a wide spot down the road with a lot of trash. He indicated that a short walk into the woods from there would lead to mine.

So we followed his directions and upon hiking into the woods, came across a low ridge that ran in a northerly/southerly direction. Bob and I decided to split up and traverse the ridge in opposite directions. After couple minutes we yelled out simultaneously that we each had found it. On exploring his find – a cut approximately 10 to 15 feet across and nearly as deep, that had been dug into the ridge - we found none of the yellow metal. As was our custom, we picked up a sample chunk rock for our collection. We then checked out the cut I had found with the same results. Returning dejected to his cottage, we placed our finds around the hearth of his fireplace along with the others we had collected.

Several weeks later, Bob’s cousin, a geologist from a Colorado, who had been working on an oil shale project, came for a visit. The day was one of those cooler dreary summer ones that left us no alternative except to drink a few beers and to stay warm around the fireplace.

Bob’s cousin had joined us and while standing around the fire, suddenly he dropped his beer bottle and with his eyes as big as saucers, grabbed one of the ‘gold mine’ rocks and exclaimed “where did you get this?” After telling our tale, he told us that that piece of milky quartz was guaranteed to contain gold. All excited - again – we enquired how we would find out if it did. He then explained that we should have it assayed; but continuing the questioning found out that the cost be around \$75...a sum that was totally out of our range of available funds...and, once again, the ‘get rich quick’ bubble burst. That fall, while attending the Dublin School, Bob wrote a paper for his English class about his summer experiences. His professor knew the local history and relayed to Bob that during the depression the fellow who owned that land, in an effort to sell the lot, salted it with a little gold dust, and that is how it became known as the ‘gold mine’.

But that is not the end of the story. A couple of years later, I was visiting a neighbor – Farmer Hank – and while chatting over a one of his home brews, he mentioned that his new bride owned a ‘gold mine’ in Peterborough. In a very excited voice, he exclaimed that he had been in touch with a ‘mining company’ that was going to make him a very rich man! When he had finished his story I relayed our experience, and he too fell in line.

## Epilog

Should you ever find yourself on Rt 101 headed west out of Peterborough, keep an eye out for “Old Peterborough Rd.” That is the road that used to be known as “Gold Mine Rd.”, (so named after our discovery) but I suppose the locals got tired of us ‘touristas’ looking to get rich quick, and so had it renamed...and that's the end of the story.

Submitted by Tony Howd



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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)

**2011 Club Dues are due please send your dues to Steffen Hermanns**

**Capital Mineral Club Meetings & Events**

**MARCH 5, 2011**

Board of Directors Meeting: **12:00PM**  
 Club Meeting: **2:00PM**  
 Speaker: Martin Kippley Radioactive Minerals  
 Refreshments: John & Frances Gill

**APRIL 2, 2011**

Board of Directors Meeting: **12:00PM**  
 Club Meeting: **2:00PM**  
 Speaker: Matt Fulgram  
 Refreshments: Pearl Nadeau

**MAY 1, 2011**

Board of Directors Meeting: **12:00PM**  
 Club Meeting: **2:00PM**  
 Speaker: Jim Nizamoff Mount Mica  
 Refreshments: Edna Whitmore

**JULY ??, 2011**

Poland Mining Camp

**AUGUST 20, 2011**

Field Trip to the Tripp Mine

**SEPTEMBER 9-11, 2011**

Field Trip to Alden NY

**Gem & Mineral Shows**

**March 26-27 2011 --HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS:**  
**Show;** Connecticut Valley Mineral Club; Holiday Inn at Ingle-  
 side, I-91 Exit 15; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$4, children 12  
 and under free with adult; minerals, gemstones, jewelry, crys-  
 tals, beads, fossils, lapidary, demonstrations, exhibits; contact  
 Lee Champigny, (413) 320-9741; e-mail: pull-  
 G4fun@verizon.net; Web site: [www.cvmineralclub.org](http://www.cvmineralclub.org)

**April 14-17—Rochester, NY.** 38th Rochester Mineralogical  
 Symposium. Radisson Hotel Rochester Airport, 175 Jefferson  
 Rd. Info.—Helen Chamberlain, [contactrms@hotmail.com](mailto:contactrms@hotmail.com).

**April 30-May 1—Franklin, NJ.** The Sterling Hill Mining Mu-  
 seum and the Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society's  
 39th Annual NJESA Show. Franklin School, 50 Washington  
 Ave. Info.—Sterling Hill Mining Museum, 973/209-7212.

**April 30-May 1—Topsfield, MA.** North Shore Rock & Min-  
 eral Club's 48th Annual Gem and Mineral Show, Topsfield  
 Fairgrounds, Coolidge Hall and Trade Building, Rt. 1. Info.—  
 Joe Weisberg, [mw29@verizon.net](mailto:mw29@verizon.net).

**August 27-28 2011 — CONCORD, NH: 48th 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)