



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 **3rd Saturday** of every month

- My e-mail address:
pfcram@comcast.net
- CMC Website:
www.capitalmineralclub.org
- Website designed and maintained by:
Peter Cram & 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, November 5th at 2:00 PM at The Salvation Army Building, Concord, NH.

Thank you to Winnie Harding for supplying refreshments for the October meeting.

Dr. William B. "Skip" Simmons will be our speaker this month and his presentation will be on "Big Crystals-Little Crystals". Skip spent many years at the University of New Orleans as a professor of mineralogy after obtaining his Ph.D. His primary interest is pegmatites, especially gem pegmatites. He is well known in the mineral community including professional mineralogists, collectors and miners.

2017 Club dues are due, please send your membership renewals to Steffen Hermanns. Make check payable: Capital Mineral Club . Dues are \$10.00 per member.

Welcome New Members

Dawn Quirk, Winthrop, MA. , John T Morehouse, Grand Rapids, MI.
 Cheryl Lynn Gray, Plainfield, VT. , Nathan Edward Hurteau, Chester, NH.
 Wendy A Sevene, Rumney, NH. , Shawn M Nye, Rumney, NH.
 Jordan M Wood, Cornish, NH.

Mineral Clubs - Meeting Dates

Saco Valley Gem and Mineral Club: 3rd Tuesday 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

North Shore (MA): 3rd Friday of each month, Hamilton Wenham Community House, 284 Bay Rd, South Hamilton, MA – 7:45 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

Meeting opened at 2:00pm by president Steffen Hermanns.

Meeting Minutes:

The previous minutes were gone over and a couple of corrections were brought up, particularly as to a reference to the money market account being discussed, which it was not. Motion made to eliminate the reference in the official minutes, seconded and accepted. Secretary's report accepted. Charlie mentioned that note should be made of his appointment by the board to the position of VP. He felt it should be made clear that it was by appointment rather than election.

Treasurers Report:

The treasurer's report was read, including a full report on the show. Accepted.

Field Trips:

Field trips were then discussed. Charlie talked about the trips to Valencia and Hackett, and also to Jon Herndon's mine. Coming up is the October 16th trip to Palermo. He asked Larry Welker about tagging along with the Keene Mineral Club on their trip on Nov 13th to the Davis and Plume mines. Larry said that would be fine. Charlie mentioned the future possibility of going to the Government Pit. He also said he has been in communication with Jim Tovey about a trip to the Tripp Mine, and/or its associated mines. The date of October 17th, with a rain date the next day, was proposed. He will get back to the club when he has a firm answer. Also checking on a trip to the garnet mine that the club went to last year, with a possible date of October 10th or 11th.

Steffen mentioned that the trip to Palermo is **rain or shine**, so dress accordingly. He does not recommend passenger cars for the mine road, and suggested parking at the bottom & catching a ride others.

Tony talked about the publicity he is working on, particularly as it concerns the television spots he is putting together to put on local access channels. He would like volunteers to help, both with onscreen and with editing.

New Business:

Don mentioned that as a 501c3 we should be doing much more to fulfill our educational purpose. Our bank balance is significantly high, and he felt that we needed to consider funding some scholarships in the very near future. The EFMLS had chosen to grant funds to two UNH students this year, and a proposal was made to further gift them from our funds, as they had been vetted and approved by the EFMLS. If they were no longer active or in need, the offer could go to another two students, chosen with the help of the appropriate professor. A great deal of discussion followed, and many alternative proposals were made, including the direct purchase of equipment for the geology department. A great deal more discussion happened, both for and against the proposals. Pat Barker motioned to donate to the two students approved by the EFMLS, and it was seconded. More discussion followed, including suggestions to just donate directly to the geology department, to avoid going through the administration, as they might put the money into the general fund. Bob Whitmore confirmed that, as a 501c3, we have the authority to grant scholarships and funds directly to the persons or programs of our choice. Pat rescinded her motion due to all the indecision in the club. More research needs to be done on how best to donate, and Bob said he would work on it. Don reiterated the pressing need to get this done. Gordon asked Pat to also look into what the UNH professor feels would be best, and she said she would. She will report at the November meeting.

In other new business, Steffen said we have been borrowing the microphone and setup for long enough, and we need to decide if we are buying it or not. The cost is \$500. Motion made to purchase it, seconded, passed.

New members were announced and door prizes were distributed.
Meeting adjourned at 4:28.

Respectfully Submitted
Ellen Oberkotter, Secretary

Big Crystals - Little Crystals

How fast do crystals form in pegmatites

Presented by: Dr. William B. "Skip" Simmons

Skip spent many years at the University of New Orleans as a professor of mineralogy after obtaining his Ph.D. His primary interest is pegmatites, especially gem pegmatites. He is well known in the mineral community including professional mineralogists, collectors and miners.



He has spent many weeks in Maine during his career studying pegmatites, running workshops and sharing knowledge with everyone who is interested in mineralogy especially pegmatites. Skip has also been involved in numerous publications including the American Mineralogist, Canadian Mineralogist, Rocks & Minerals, Mineralogical Record, and Lithographie mineral monographs to name a few.

In 1999 a mineral was named after him, Simmonsite from Zapot pegmatite, Gillis Range, Fitting District, Mineral Co., Nevada, USA.



Skip examining tiny crystals at the B B # 7 mine in Greenwood, Maine



Large beryl crystals in Bumpus mine, Albany, Maine circa 1929



For many years it was assumed that a long time was needed to form large crystals while small ones took a lot less time. Is this still the case? Maybe not. Come to the meeting to find out how long it takes to form crystals.

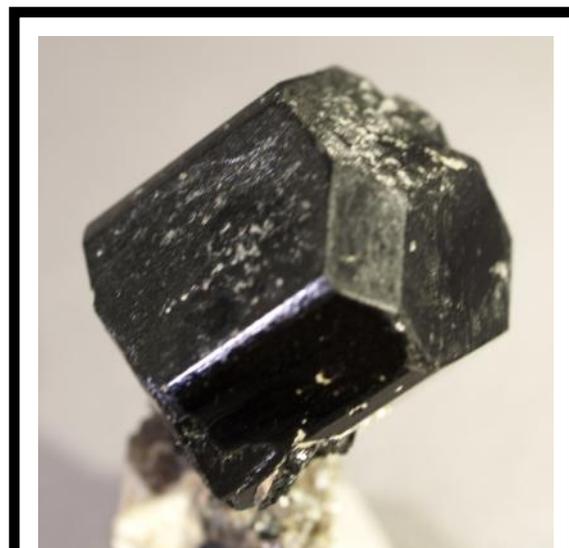
TOURMALINE

Naming minerals in your collection used to be simple. When you had a tourmaline crystal you named it that and if black it was a 'black tourmaline' and if red a 'red tourmaline' and so on. Then we learned that a black tourmaline was a mineral called schorl and the colored tourmalines the mineral elbaite. Now it's not so simple.

Fleischer's Glossary of Mineral Species 2014 which lists all valid mineral species to the date of publication now has tourmaline as a supergroup that includes 4 calcic subgroups and 6 alkali subgroups as well as an X-site vacant subgroup. The count of existing and expected separate minerals in the group is 34.

The general chemical formula for the group is $XY_3Z_6(T_6O_{18})(BO_3)_3V_3W$. The letters X,Y,Z,T,V and W can contain different elements while O is oxygen and B is Boron. The first site in the formula denoted by an X determines the subclass where a particular mineral is placed in the overall nomenclature. When Ca (calcium) occupies the X-site the mineral is a calcic group member. When Na (sodium) is in the X-site the mineral is a member of the alkali group, and when there is no element in this site it is a member of the X-site vacant group. In addition to this the individual minerals are classified by the other elements in the other sites. (Isn't this X-citing)

This nomenclature has been a large departure from the past. The International Mineralogical Association is the body that approves or disproves valid mineral species. The changes reflected in the 2014 Fleischer glossary were an attempt to have an orderly, consistent nomenclature for mineral species similar to that for animals and plants. In addition, new minerals are indicated if the predictions of this scheme prove out and a mineral is found with the elements suspected. Unfortunately, this is very confusing for most mineral collectors especially since the composition of a mineral can vary within a single crystal. I would recommend sticking to labels from reputable dealers. If you collect a tourmaline crystal you can further refine its identity by the species generally found at the locality you collected it from. If you want to be a purist it can just be called a member of the tourmaline group.



**Schorl crystal from
the Rice mine, North Groton,
New Hampshire**



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

Email: pfcram@comcast.net

WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.CAPITALMINERALCLUB.ORG

2017 Club Dues are Due, please send your membership renewals to Steffen Hermanns and make check payable to Capital Mineral Club, Dues are \$10.00 per member.

Capital Mineral Club Meetings & Events	Gem & Mineral Shows
<p>November 5, 2016 Club Meeting: 2:00PM Speaker: Dr. William "Skip" Simmons "Big Crystals-Little Crystals" Refreshments Charles Forsberg</p>	<p>November 5-6, 2016: Old Greenwich, CT. 28th Annual Show and Sale hosted by the Stamford Mineralogical Society, Eastern Greenwich Civic Center, 90 Harding Rd.</p>
<p>December 3, 2016 Club Meeting: Holiday Get Together 12:00- 4:00PM Chair: Charles Forsberg</p>	<p>November 19-20, 2016: Worcester, MA: 40th Annual Mineral Show by the Worcester Mineral Club, National Guard Armory, 701 Lincoln St.</p>
<p>January 7, 2017 Club Meeting: 2:00PM Speaker: TBD Refreshments TBD</p>	