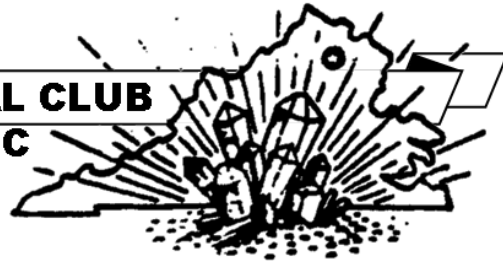




THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA MINERAL CLUB INC



Crystals are the flowers of the Mineral Kingdom



THE MINERAL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 49 No. 2

FEBRUARY 2008

Food, Fellowship, and Fabulous Finds

The NVMC Meeting Feb 25, 2008

One of the great things about rock-hounds is they like to share the stories, not only about what they've found but how they found it. Every year we all seem to have a new story to tell but it never seems there's time enough to do it at a meeting; there's always more business to do. How can that dilemma be solved?? The February meeting of the NVMC offers a solution. That solution is to make the program a NVMC sharing time; so bring your Fabulous Find or treasure from 2007 or any other

year. Just as important and maybe more so is bringing the story about the Find and sharing it with us.

Food, Fellowship, and Fabulous Finds that's THE FEBRUARY PROGRAM!!! The club will provide goodies and "healthies" along with fruit juice and tea; that's the Food. You, the Food, and Fabulous Finds when mixed in a congenial atmosphere blend into Fellowship.

Join us!
The Prez

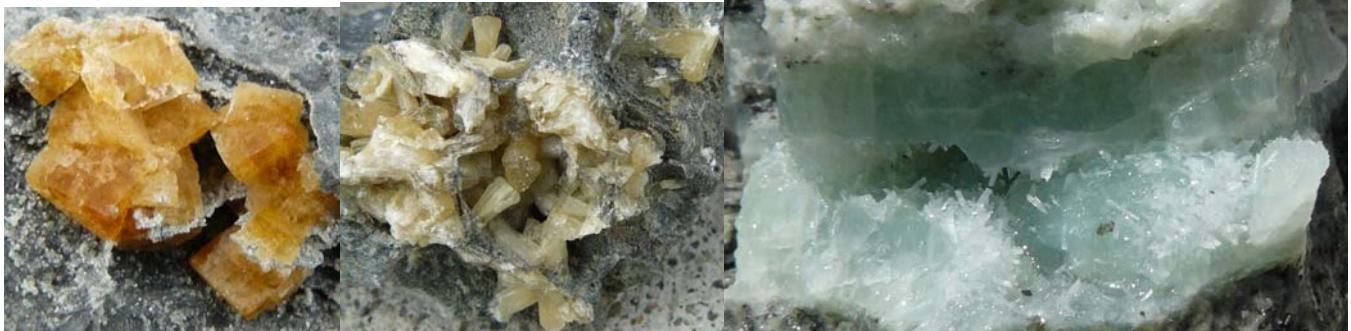
Find information also on our Club Website:
<http://www.mineralclub.org>

Club Meeting:

- **Monday, February 25**
7:45 pm at Long Branch Nature Center

Field Trip:

- **Saturday, March 08 at Manassas Quarry**



Field Trip - Manassas Quarry

Saturday, March 8th

2008's first field trip is to the Vulcan Materials Company - Manassas Quarry, Saturday, March 8th, for prehnite, calcite, apophyllite, stilbite and many more. The address is 8537 Vulcan Lane, Manassas, VA 20109. Meet at the Manager's Office no later than 7:45 am. We will collect from 8:00 am to 11:30 am (we must leave NLT noon). Kids are welcome if accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. All participants must sign a liability waiver prior to entering the mine. This is a hard rock

quarry and you will need heavy boots (preferably steel toed), hard hat, safety goggles, heavy work gloves, rock hammer, rock chisels, buckets/egg cartons and paper to wrap specimens. Don't forget water, snacks and sunscreen. This field trip is open only to members of the Northern Virginia Mineral Club. **John Boyer must know of your plans to attend before Friday, March 7th in order to notify you of a cancellation due to weather or quarry operations. John's cell phone number is 703-304-3489 or email him at jwskboyer@cox.net**

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General Mineral Miner Certification

John Boyer, Field Trip Chairman

For those of you interested in earning the General Mineral Miner Certification, there are four training sessions coming up in Virginia that you can attend.

May 13, 2008 in Manassas. and, sometime in June 2008 in Charlottesville. The training lasts about seven hours and certification will give us access to more quarries and mines in Virginia. I will be attending the May 13 session in Manassas. For more information and to sign up for any session, call the office of Jeffrey Stewart, Virginia Division of Min-

"....certification will give us access to more quarries and mines in Virginia"

eral Mining at (434) 951-6315.

From the Editor:

Jeffrey Stewart was contacted in regards to having children attend this class. Can your child receive certification? This is possible if the child is in high school and shows good participation and understanding of the material presented. Ultimately it is up to the instructor to decide whether to issue certification or not.

There is no age restriction for receiving a GMMC, but a person needs to be 18 years of age and have a GMMC *to work in a mine*. So, using a GMMC strictly for access to a mine is a different matter, and has no legal age restriction.

If you would like to bring your child to this certification class, this is OK as long as the child is attentive and not disruptive.

Please see the forms below and be sure to register ahead of time!

Richard Body forwarded the following helpful information regarding the General Mineral Miner Certification (GMMC) - note that some of these addresses extend onto a second line:

FISCAL YEAR TRAINING SCHEDULE (July 2007- June 2008)

[Thornberg 2/13/08; Wytheville 3/13/08; Manassas 5/15/08]

<https://www.dmme.virginia.gov/dmm/documents/training/2008FYschedule.pdf>

DEPARTMENT OF MINES, MINERALS, AND ENERGY 1 of 12
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR MINERAL MINER

<http://www.townhall.state.va.us/1/GetFile.cfm?File=E:%5Ctownhall%5Cdocroot%5C66%5C1016%5C1614%5C4%20vac%2025-35,%2012-26%20regulation.pdf>

Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (See "What Is The Process For Obtaining A Certification?")

<http://www.dmme.virginia.gov/DMM/certification.shtml>

DIVISION OF MINERAL MINING PROCEDURE MANUAL

<http://www.townhall.state.va.us/1/GetFile.cfm?File=E:%5Ctownhall%5Cdocroot%5CGuidanceDocs%5C409%5C729.pdf>

Certification Forms

<http://townhall.virginia.gov/L/GetFile.cfm?File=E:%5Ctownhall%5Cdocroot%5C66%5C1016%5C2616%5CForm%20DMME%202616%20v1.pdf> (pg.4)

<http://www.dmme.virginia.gov/DMM/documents/materialdownload/DMM.BMME.1.pdf>

<http://www.dmme.virginia.gov/DMM/documents/materialdownload/DMM.BMME.1.doc>

General Mineral Miner Course Description

<http://www.dmme.virginia.gov/Dmm/Forms%20Index/Regular%20Forms/GMM.pdf>

Thank-You, Richard!

The Prez says:

We had a great January meeting. It was spirited and those present discussed substantive issues, shared views, and voted accordingly. Then Barry had to chase us out of the Nature Center considerably later than our usual 10 PM time. Thanks Barry. Those of you who weren't there missed a good one. Join us on February 25th. The 2008 budget will be presented and voted on. Thanks for the work needed to prepare it Rick.

Some other things you missed if you weren't at the January meeting was the information from Tom Taffe that the show dates for 2008 are set; reserve November 21, 22, 23 on your calendar. Thanks Tom for giving us such a long lead time to plan. Now NVMC is looking for a club member to be our 2008 show coordinator. Tom has his hands full with the dealers and set-up in the ballroom at GMU.

January Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the January 28, 2008 Meeting

Kathy Hrechka, Secretary

President, Wayne Sukow called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m.

New guests included Tim Harrison and his son, Mike. Past President, Rob Robinson was recognized.

Announcements: John Boyer, Field Trip Chair invited club members to sign up for the trip to Manassas Quarry on March 8. Wayne Sukow invited all interested club members to attend the next executive board meeting on Thursday, February 14 at 7:30 p.m. NVMC board meetings will be held each month on the second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. at his residence. Address: 3156 Eakin Park Court, Annandale, VA Phone: (703) 280-8108.

Sukow announced that he had awarded Georgia Olmstead & Tom Taaffe the President's

DUES ARE DUE.

To participate in NVMC activities you need to be a NVMC club member so remember that our Treasure, Rick Reiber, is collecting NVMC 2008 membership dues. He'll take cash or checks at the February meeting. No increase this year Looking ahead, the program for March is the auction and to sell you need to be a NVMC member for 2008.

"Is anyone listening" or "Is anyone reading?" Please let me know...plan on attending a NVMC Exec Board meeting. We can accommodate four members plus the Board. Send me an email that you're coming, my address is d8olite@fastmail.fm

Award at the last meeting. Neither member was present to accept their award in December or at tonight's meeting.

Break for refreshments provided by Karen Lewis.

Program: IMAX "The Eruption of Mount St. Helens" The film chronicled the cataclysmic events of May 18, 1980, and revisited the location ten years later. Club members discussed where they were on that infamous day. Katherine Wells said that she was not yet born.

Sukow reconvened the business meeting:
Old Business: Rick Reiber, Treasurer was available to collect dues. \$20. for family, and \$15. for individuals.

Door prizes were won by Jeff Cessna, Katherine Wells, and Robert Winsor.

Sukow announced, on behalf of Tom Taaffe that our next Club Show will be held on Nov.

January Minutes (continued)

22-23, 2008 at GMU.

Sukow opened the topic for discussion concerning our past election. Robert Winsor made a move to rescind the election. The motion failed. John Kress made a motion to affirm the action to approve the nominations from the November meeting. Rob Robinson spoke about his regret of any miscommunication, and requested for club officers to follow transparent procedure. The motion was made from the floor and seconded. The motion was unanimously carried by the attending membership to affirm the election as published in the January, 2008 newsletter.

Sukow is soliciting a newsletter letter editor. Contact him at d8olite@fastmail.fm

Discussion occurred of what members want in the newsletter. Sukow stated, officers' contacts, dues for treasurer, meetings, agenda,

Secretary minutes.

New Business: Concern to the minutes of the November meeting. Jeff Gruber stated that the elections of the MNCA were not properly highlighted, therefore, were confusing to our club minutes. They were italicized.

A motion was made to include monies in the 08 budget to support a donation for the Long Branch Nature Center. A recommendation to publish a draft budget to be discussed and voted on was made. There was concern of field trip funding. Rob Robinson made a motion for John Boyer to allocate the field trip budget for his discretion. The motion was seconded. Much discussion occurred. The motion that Boyer use field trip funding passed with strong support.

Meeting was adjourned at 10 p.m.

Meeting on Monday February 25, 7:45pm

The next meeting of the Northern Virginia Mineral Club will be held on Monday February 25, 2008 at 7:45pm

The meeting Agenda is as follows:

1. Call to order at 7:45 pm.
Recognize guests...
Recognize Past presidents
2. Announcements:
Field Trips...short comments only
Other short, time-sensitive announcements from committee chairs or audience.
NVMC Executive Committee March Meeting...
Call for nominations for NVMC Vice President-2008. Election in March.

3. Old Business...
2008-appreciation gift for Long branch Nature Center...Ideas from Barry Remer
4. New Business
Approval of minutes of January '08 NVMC meeting.
Budget report.
Presentation and approval of 2008 budget.
Other items???
5. Adjourn for February program...???????????????

Our meetings are held at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 Carlin Springs Road, Arlington, VA 22204

The Rockville Quarry and the \$5 gratuity

An Historical Perspective

By George Reimherr

Thanks to the owners of the Rockville Crushed Stone Quarry, aka the Hunting Hill Quarry, and to the former superintendent John Croney and present quarry director Jeffrey Greene, several of our local mineral groups have had limited collecting opportunities at the quarry over the past several years. However, there were years previously when this access was not permitted. Let's begin back in the mid 1980's about the time the author joined the NVMC.

During the 1985-1988 time period, admission to the quarry was relatively easy to come by for the local mineral clubs. Trips were on Sundays, usually limited to one club at a time, collectors could stay as late as 4pm, and no gratuity was collected. Cars would be lined up in single file outside the quarry gate. At 9:30am the gate would open, and everyone drove down into the pit, scattering over various level and rock piles. Although not every trip was a success, there were some dates that are memorable, including the following:

Aug 25, 1985: discovery of blue meguinnessite crystals

Sept. 29, 1985: discovery of what turned out to be orange desutelsite crystals

Oct. 19 & Nov. 9, 1986: good collecting trips for grossular garnets

Jul. 17, 1988: hottest field trip ~101-81 weather bureau readings

Feb. 7, 1988: coldest field trip 29-11 weather bureau readings (3 club member showed for this chilly trip)

Dec. 11, 1988: a NVMC trip which became the last field trip for years to come. Quarry management decided to close the Rockville Quarry to collectors.

There developed one exception, the micro-mounter's club (MNCA), in conjunction with their annual conference, got special permis-

sion to have up to 25 conference attendees (with Eastern Federation insurance) collect at the quarry for about 3 years—1989-1991. The trip of April 7, 1991 was especially noteworthy in that the rubble pile contained specimens with grossular garnets. However, this trip was the last one; thereafter, no club could get permission to collect at the Rockville Quarry.

Access to the Hunting Hill Quarry has not always been so easy....

We are fortunate to get access to this site at all.

Fast forward to summer, 1995. the author got a surprising phone call from Paul Smith. A field trip to Rockville Quarry had been arranged for Sunday afternoon, Aug 6, 1995. The trip was limited to 15 persons, by invitation only, from various local clubs. There were heavy rains before the trip resulting in lakes in the quarry. The afternoon became sunny but very humid; attendees were limited to remain within sight, on one quarry level.

There was sufficient rubble for us to examine, and it felt good to be back in the quarry. In appreciation, Paul Smith began the practice of collecting \$5 from each participant, and giving the money to the quarry manager, without whose presence the trip would not have occurred.

There were no more field trips to the Rockville Quarry in 1995. Also there were none in 1996. Jack Nelson, of the Montgomery County Mineral Club, decided he would look into this, and somehow he got permission for his club to collect at the quarry on May 18, 1997, a Sunday afternoon. This trip was the occasion of finding a new mineral for the Rockville Quarry, namely Ilmenite. The practice of donating \$5 per attendee, to give to the quarry manager for his expenses and his time, was continued for this trip, and for later trips, and even until now.

The first NVMC field trip to Rockville Quarry since Dec 11, 1988 was on Oct 25, 1998 - a time gap of almost 10 years!

Tidbits

DID YOU KNOW?

You might notice that some websites (and the electronic version of this newsletter) do NOT show email addresses as hyperlinks or even as text. Instead, they are shown as pictures! This is to help control unwanted email because of software that trolls the internet in search of nothing but email addresses to send spam to! Controlling spam can be challenging, but this is one easy way to help reduce spam.

NVMC has an email group

What is an email group? An email group is an email address that is forwarded to all of the members that have signed onto it. When you send a message to the email address that represents the group, the message is sent to all those that have "subscribed" to the service. This is a free service, and is quite commonly used amongst various clubs and organizations. Such email groups can be a helpful way to get a message to members of the club in a quick manner, or to have casual discussions with other club members in an open forum. For example, let's say that you have a question about

how to clean some minerals you have just obtained on a field trip, but you don't want to wait until the next club meeting to get an answer. You can send a message to the email group and possibly get a quicker answer.

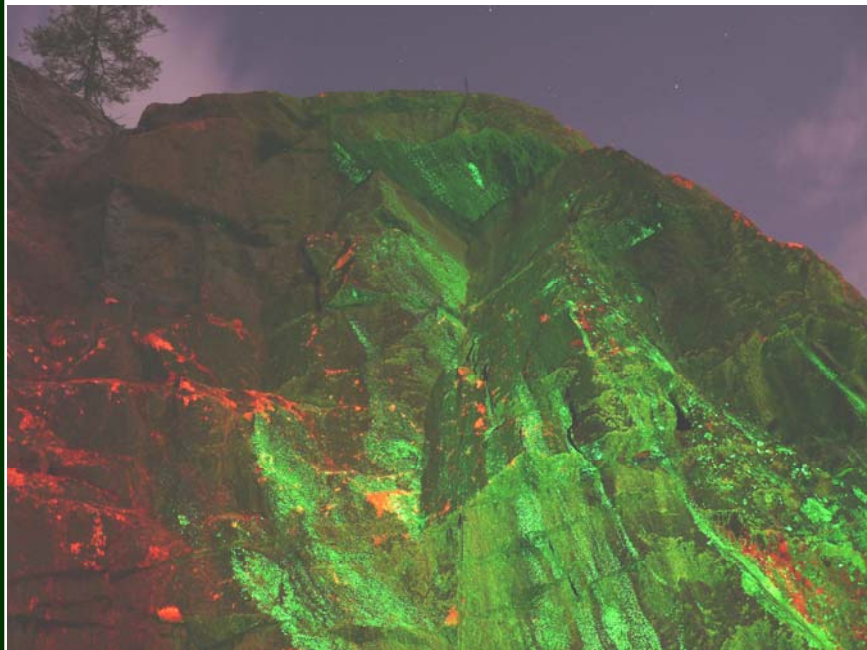
To subscribe to the NVMC email group "NVMinerals", please visit this website and follow the instructions to subscribe:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NVMinerals/>

Or, send email to me if you have questions about this.

photech@comcast.net

Trotter Diggg 2008 at Sterling Hill Mine April 26th



A picture of the fluorescent "wall" taken with a timed exposure at Sterling Hill in April 2007. This rock wall is about 40' high and is illuminated at sundown using a shortwave UV light. Red is calcite and green is Willemite.

For those of you unfamiliar with the Trotter Diggg (why it has 3 "g"s in diggg is a long story), this is a day of access to the Sterling Hill Mine in Ogdensburg, NJ. This is an historic Zinc Ore mine that is now shut down and in the process of being turned into a protected historical site. This mine is legendary for its immense list of minerals, especially minerals that are fluorescent. Part of the \$20 entry fee (per person) will also grant you access to tours of the upper mine and conveyor belts - grab a piece of ore off the belt from the day the mine was shut down - and also the tour of the lower mine (bring your portable UV lights).

My daughter and I went to this last year, and it was extremely enjoyable. Note, however, that ore removed from the site costs \$1.50 per lb.

See the following website for more information: <http://www.uvwworld.org>

-Robert Winsor

New Newsletter Editor, Robert Winsor

Hello,

For those of you that don't know me, I am a fairly new club member (joined March 2007). I heard the club needed a new editor for the newsletter, so I thought I would give it a try.

I am very open to new ideas and suggestions, so please send me any ideas for articles or suggestions for changes to the information presented. If there is something I can do to make the letter easier to read, please let me know.

Please send articles! You do not need to ask first. If you have a story to tell, please just write it up and send it to me and I will be happy to put it in the newsletter. If you have an interesting news article, please send it to me.

Do you know of a great location to prospect for

minerals? Please write a few words about it and share it with our other club members—especially if it is not part of our usual set of area field trips.

Are you particularly skilled at some aspect of lapidary arts? How about jotting down some helpful tips for fellow club members?

Is there a rock, mineral, or fossil that you find particularly fascinating? Why not write it down and share your views?

Please send articles or ideas via email to:

photech@comcast.net

Or you can mail them to:

Robert Winsor
35740 Roundleaf Ct.
Round Hill, VA 20141

Send me
your story
ideas!

Newsletter goes Emerald

-Robert Winsor

OK, so I could say that the newsletter has gone GREEN, but this is a mineral club!

Going green means that this newsletter is now available in two formats. One is in true living color by means of either the NVMC website or by email. If you like to reduce the amount of paper in your life and save a fraction of a tree in the process, you can ask for the electronic-only version of the newsletter. The electronic version is in

full color and in pdf format for easy access.

You will continue to receive the black-and-white paper version of this letter until you contact me and specifically ask for the electronic-only version.

If you did not receive an email about this, it is because I do not have your email address. Please send me your email address in this case.

Send email to:

photech@comcast.net

The Board of Directors

Do you have a question for one of our Board members? To the right you can find email addresses and phone numbers for club officers.

Also, if you would like to attend a meeting of the Board of Directors, please contact Wayne Sukow and let him know ahead of time. All club members are welcome at Board meetings!

Board Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at 7:30pm at Wayne's home in Fairfax. Please contact Wayne for directions.

President: Wayne Sukow
d8olite@fastmail.fm (703) 280-8108

Vice President: (Vacant)

Secretary: Kathy Hrechka
kshrechka@msn.com (703) 765-3187

Treasurer: Rick Reiber
rickgr3@comcast.net (703) 578-4224



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PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
[HTTP://www.mineralclub.org](http://www.mineralclub.org)

The Northern Virginia Mineral Club

Purpose: To promote, educate and encourage interest in geology, mineralogy, lapidary arts and related sciences. The society is a member of Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS)

<http://www.amfed.org/efmls> and American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS)
<http://www.amfed.org>.

Dues: Due by 1 January of each year; \$15.00 Individual, \$20.00 Family, and \$6.00 Junior (under 16, sponsored by an adult member).

Meetings are held at 7:45 p.m. on the fourth Monday of each month (except May and December*) at **Long Branch Nature Center**, 625 Carlin Springs Road, Arlington, VA 22204. Phone (703) 228-6535. (No meeting in July & August.)

(*Changes announced in the newsletter.) Snow schedule - Arlington county schools.

Visitors are Always Welcome at our Club Meetings.

ATTENTION

IF YOU HAVE NOT
PAID YET, DUES MUST
BE PAID BY APRIL 1ST
OR YOUR NAME WILL
BE REMOVED FROM
CLUB
MEMBERSHIP

You can send your membership renewal to:

Rick Reiber
2121 Marlboro Dr
Alexandria, VA 22304