



THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA MINERAL CLUB INC



Crystals are the flowers of the Mineral Kingdom



THE MINERAL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 50 No. 9

NOVEMBER 2009

November Auction

Also find information on our Club Website: (note new URL) <http://www.novamineralclub.org>

Our club holds two auctions per year; one in March and one in November. The auctions are held at our normal meeting location at Long Branch Nature Center. The auctions are very popular, and to maximize the time for the auction, our business meetings are started early (at 7:30pm rather than 7:45pm) and are kept brief.

This should be completed before the business meeting starts at 7:30pm.

If you are bidding, please bring cash to pay for your winnings, as it makes the finances much easier during this hectic event! Items with bids on the bid slips will be auctioned first, so if you see something you like, write down a bid on the bid slip, otherwise it may not make it to the bidding at all.

Please note that Long Branch Nature Center has a rather small parking lot. You will want to arrive early if you want a decent place to park. If you wish to bring some of your own items to sell at the auction, you should plan to arrive by 7pm so you can setup all your items with the needed bid slips (see page 5).

Please note that the last couple of auctions have had so many people in attendance that it was standing room only! So, wear comfortable shoes.

Good luck bidding!

NVMC Schedule:

21-22 Nov. The annual Gem, Mineral and Fossil show of the NVMC

23 Nov. General meeting and AUCTION of the NVMC at Long Branch Nature Center

26 Nov. Eat Turkey, take a nap

21 Dec. General meeting and Holiday gathering Potluck for the NVMC at Long Branch Nature Center

The Northern Virginia Mineral Club, Inc. will hold its 18th Annual Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show

at the Student Union II Building, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA on November 21st and 22nd, 2009.

This event is sponsored by GMU's Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences.

Hours are Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Free parking on Sat & Sun will be designated in nearby Lot A where there will be a courtesy shuttle to the show.

Shuttle pickup and drop off will be located on Nottaway River Lane side of Lot A (across from University Police station) which is the closest free parking to our event. (the same set-up as last year)

Admission is \$4.00 for adults; \$3.00 for Senior Citizens (65+) and \$3.00 for Teens (13-18).

Admission is Free for Children (12 and under), Scouts in Uniform, and GMU Students with ID.

Our show will have over 20 Gem, Mineral and Fossil dealers with wonderful specimens for sale in all price ranges. There will also be Demonstrations, Exhibits, and Door Prizes as well as a Silent Auction on Sunday. We also have a lively Kid's area with mineral related activities, quizzes and puzzles. The Kid's area has several Mini-mines and a Miocene Fossil dig where kids under 18 can dig for free specimens when they attempt any of our fun rock & fossil quizzes or challenges.

For additional show info email rockcllctr@aol.com.

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October Meeting Minutes

By Kathy Hrechka, Secretary

President pro-tem, Wayne Sukow called the meeting to order at 8 p.m.

Show chair, Tom Taaffe gave an update on our club mineral show to be held Nov. 21-22.

He had flyers for members to take and distribute for publicity. He still needs help Friday 5 p.m. Saturday, and Sunday. He needs minerals for the silent auction, and door prizes.

Tom's phone numbers are: home 703/281-3767, cell 571/345-5310.

Guests included: Dan Brown, Jennifer Horner, and Alexis Steen.

Ways & Means chair, Sheryl Sims & daughter Amber gave out door prizes to Eric Thompson and Lois Dowell.

Announcements: Vice-president, Barry Remer is looking for a nominating to fill club positions including President, Vice-president, Treasurer, and Secretary. Nominations will be held at the November 23 meeting, with elections at the December 21 meeting.

EFMLS Annual Convention, Bristol, CT October 16 – 18: Barry Remer attended and gave a report. Club insurance for field trips was a topic of concern.

Name tags: Kathy Hrechka delivered pre-ordered club name tags. She posted a sign-up sheet for interested members at the meeting. She stated that the

name tags are a nice identity to wear at meetings and our upcoming show.

Holiday Party: December 21, 2009. The Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area are inviting NVMC members to a joint party. MNCA will provide deli meats and beverages.

October Program: "Club Member Summer Collecting Show & Tell"

John Kress – Wavelite, calcite

Holt Apgar – Poland Mining Camp, ME Mt. .Mica mineral display – tourmaline

George Reihmerr – West Springfield, MA Show Aug. – Kyanite

Kathy Hrechka – NASA Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX - NASA 50 yr. anniversary

Dave Hennessey – Apophyllite, prehnite, Leesburg, VA

Pat Haynes - Parnauite, AZ, Colorless wulfenite, mimetite, cuprian adamite, San Rafael Mine, NV, Toured Grand Canyon, AZ

Ann Cameron Siegal presented for her daughter, Rebecca – Colorado Road cut photos.

Lois Dowell – Self made Copper chain mail bracelet from Wildacres, NC

Wayne sukow – Blue picture jasper, datolite, DE Mine, spoke of travels through Biggs Canyon, Oregon coast

The Prez Says

THANKSGIVING & SHARING... GOING GREEN

November is for Thanksgiving. I'm thankful for:

A solid core of NVMC club members who regularly come to the monthly meetings. In 2009 our record was 50 at our September meeting with standing room only.

A continuing influx of new members with new ideas who will be tomorrow's leaders.

NVMC club officers who accept their responsibilities and step up to do extra work when it's needed.

The EFMLS and AFMS, which provide leadership, services, and opportunities for those in our hobby.

Our 2009 show chairman, who gave club members a chance to share our hobby with the general public.

Those who plan the numerous very successful collecting field trips for NVMC members.

Those who present program at our monthly meetings, which give us new and old learning experiences.

The Long Branch Nature Center, which gives us a comfortable place to meet.

Michigan datolite, Lake Superior Agates, Copper crystals, and Silver crystals or whatever your favorite mineral treasures are.

The NVMC and looking forward to what it will do in the coming years.

Wayne Sukow, Prez.

The Editor has a Computer Problem!

This month's newsletter is chopped off at 8 pages due to a glitch with the Newsletter Editor's computer. The problem led to a nearly catastrophic failure of the computer, but luckily the data is in tact. The problem is that until that computer is actually *functioning* again, the Editor can not access all of the data that was to go into this newsletter. In particular, any inputs to the Newsletter received prior to the 1st of the month did not make it into this month's newsletter as a result. The newsletter was hectically re-created after the failure. This problem is expected to be fixed by the end of the month. Sorry for the blank spaces on some pages!

-The Editor

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 (Note imminent changes for Prez and Vice Prez!).

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 (Interim): Wayne Sukow

d8olite @ fastmail.fm (703) 280-8108

Vice President: Barry Remer

bsbremer @ comcast.net

Secretary: Kathy Hrechka

kshrechka @ msn.com (703) 765-3187

Treasurer: Rick Reiber

rickgr3 @ comcast.net (703) 578-4224

Nov. Meeting Agenda

11/23/09

INFORMATIONAL AGENDA: No action needed. Please read and comment by return email if you wish.

1. **Fred Schaefermeyer Scholarship...**At our October meeting it was suggested to give the remainder of the funds to the Eastern Foundation Fund. The President did not call for a motion, recalling that the NVMC took action earlier this year to give it to Dr. Lance Kearns to support a JMU geology student until the fund was exhausted. From the minutes of the March 23, 2009 meeting: *"Fred Schaefermeyer Fund: Tom Tucker presented this motion. "I move that as long as funds in the Schaefermeyer Scholarship Fund permit, the club make annual 'grants' in the amount of \$250 to a deserving student who is studying a specific mineral related topic at James Madison University. This student will be selected by Dr. Lance Kearns, Professor of Mineralogy at the university. The recipient will be invited to present the results of their study as a club program, or as an article in the newsletter."The motion was seconded. Discussion included dropping the professor's name. The motion was carried.*

Report of Nominating Committee for '10 NVMC Officers...At the December Meeting Nominations from the Floor will be called for followed by elections.

President.....

Vice President...

Secretary.....

Treasurer.....

Editor.....Robert Winsor

Your Articles Needed!

The Mineral Newsletter is a publication by the members and for the members. In general, the newsletter is enjoyed the most when our club members contribute articles. If you are thinking about writing an article, think no more! Just write! Did you take an interesting trip to a museum and learn something new? Did you attend a seminar? Did you take a cool field trip or visit a fun mineral sale? Why not write up a paragraph or two about it and send it to the Editor for publication? Tell us your summer stories!

Don't hesitate to write, and stop worrying about whether other club members will like your article! They will!

Recently we have had some great articles written by members like Sheryl Sims, Kathy Hrechka, and Ted Carver to name a few. Won't you join them this year?

-The Editor

CHRISTMAS PARTY...NVMC & MNCA...DECEMBER 21, 09

...

The MNCA will host the party and provide a meat and cheese tray as well as a veggie tray.

NVMC members are asked to bring salads, deserts, and other favorite holiday buffet dishes and treats.

If you wish to participate in a sharing of gifts begin to plan ahead to bring a mineral or lapidary hobby related items.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA:

Call to order at 7:30 pm.

Recognize Guests...

Approval of minutes of October '0 NVMC meeting.

Announcements:

2. **Old Business**

3. **New Business**

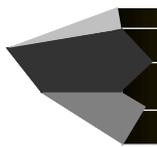
4. **Adjourn for refreshments and begin AUCTION in 15 minutes.**

New Club Website!!

Casper Voogt is the new club Webmaster!! Check out our cool new website that Casper has done a fantastic job at getting started. The new website can be found at the following location:

<http://www.novaminalclub.org>

We now expect our club website to reflect current events and to be a source of information regarding the club as well as a place to get current and former newsletters.



Lunar Rocks from the Soviet Space Program

By George Reimherr

A previous article discussed the American Apollo space program. It was noted that the first lunar landing, Apollo 11, returned 46 pounds of moon rocks to Earth, and that the 6 Apollo lunar landings resulted in almost 800 pounds of moon rocks brought back to Earth. As to what happened to all those rocks, a relatively few are on exhibit to the public in museums, all the rest were sliced up for research studies. None were available to the US general public.

Historically, the Soviet Union took the lead in the space program. They put into orbit the first satellite, the first dog, the first man, and performed the first space walk. However, by the later 1960s, the US took the lead in the space race and, after the collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s, the Russians decided to sell off much of their space memorabilia: this was done at Sotheby's Auction house in New York on December 11, 1993. Included in the sale were 235 relics of the Soviet space program, including photographs, space mail letters, space suits, even whole space capsules. But the most popular item sold all day was lot number 68, the Rus-

sian Moon rocks.

Although the Soviet Union once had an aggressive lunar program, technical problems caused the manned portions of the program to be scrapped in favor of using unmanned probes. In 1970, 14 months after America's Apollo 11 landed in the Sea of Tranquility, the Soviets' Luna 16 landed in the Sea of Fertility, dug out a lunar core sample, and returned it to Earth. At the Sotheby auction, 3 tiny pebbles from that sample were offered for sale. Reportedly, the specimens were not impressive, 3 bits of rubble looking rather like 3 lunar grape-nuts. But, as the catalog noted, this was the first time that a sample from another world was being offered for sale.

The lot was estimated to sell for between \$30,000 to \$50,000; when the 5 minutes of aggressive bidding were over the final price was \$442,500.

Source of information for this article: Discover Magazine, April 1994

AUCTION BID SLIP

ITEM # _____
 DESCRIPTION _____
 FROM _____
 DATE of FIND _____
 Starting Bid amount: _____

Bidders: You need to bid on this item if you want it to be auctioned! Place bid below.

NAME	BID
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----- Cut along line and bring one for each item -----

AUCTION BID SLIP

ITEM # _____
 DESCRIPTION _____
 FROM _____
 DATE of FIND _____
 Starting Bid amount: _____

Bidders: You need to bid on this item if you want it to be auctioned! Place bid below.

NAME	BID
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----- Cut along line and bring one for each item -----

2009 EFMLS Meeting

Thursday, Oct.16, 2009

By Barry Remer

In the hills of Central Connecticut lies a town called Bristol. In the 19th century it was famous for clock manufacturing. My guess is the people who settled the town came from or at least were familiar with Bristol, England. Like many of the towns and cities in New England like Hartford (Hertford), Coventry, and Essex. The town lies off Interstate 84 the main thoroughfare bisecting Connecticut. This weekend in this small city it was the setting for the 59th anniversary of the Eastern Federation of Mineral and Lapidary Societies.

I arrived here Thursday a day early to rest up for the long drive from Reston VA. By the time I slogged through 8 hours of rainy weather it started to snow in the town and surrounding areas. Now I do remember snow from last winter, but I wasn't quite ready to see it so early.

I checked into the Clarion Hotel in Bristol which was to be the quarters for those of us staying in the area and attending the convention meeting of the EFMLS and the 37th show put on by the Bristol Gem and Mineral club.

After a good nights sleep and a great breakfast at Friendly's I noticed the Bristol Club had a booth set up for attendees. My packet of information was ready and I sat in the lobby to preview the events. The first event was the Cracker Barrel which I recalled from my days as a member of the Bluegrass Club in Lexington, KY. It was almost time for it to start so I followed the signs put out by the club to the Douglas Beals Senior/Community Center. The Cracker Barrel is an informal meeting of the EFMLS officers and the delegates. There was lots of talk and suggestions about clubs rejoining the American Lands Access Association. Our club belonged to it for a while. The ALAA is a group that lobbies Congress to preserve and protect our access to collect minerals and fossils. This all came up as a response to Congress passing stringent regulations limiting our ability to collect on

federal land. Lots of recommendations by the attendees to join ALAA

Another topic for discussion was brought up by Steve Weinburger, an officer of the Federation and a member of the Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area (MNCA), reminding clubs that to be covered by our insurance, bulletins are to announce field trips before or after the occasion. He also suggested all clubs have their EFMLS dues in no later than the last day of February, 2010 and that these proposals would be put before the membership at the 7 o'clock general meeting. Then the Cracker Barrel was closed.

Mary Bateman, the outgoing President of EFMLS and a member of NVMC called the 7 o'clock General meeting to order. There was some discussion about a New York City club having difficulty obtaining speakers for meetings. This appears to be a problem for lots of clubs throughout the Federation. After some discussion the topic was ruled 'out of order' and the meeting continued. Steve Weinburger brought up the topic of clubs having a new deadline for paying their dues. After a brief discussion it was seconded and passed by acclamation. The other item regarding bulletins putting notices before or after field trips was also passed.

The show opened on Saturday at 9:30 a.m. There were 17 dealers in attendance. Like our own show there were cases of minerals on display. Included in the afternoon were 3 workshops; The History of Mining in CT, Mineral ID, and Common uses of Rocks and Minerals. All the workshops were well attended by adults and children asking lots of great questions.

On Saturday evening the main event was a dinner put on at the Clarion Hotel. It was quite a sight seeing all these dungareed Rockhounds dressed in suits and evening gowns. The meals were delicious and beautifully prepared.

Our speaker for the evening was Dan Record, speaking about the History of the Moon Missions and the Reasons for Them. With his use of slides from NASA and some rocket models he kept us stimulated yet hushed for over for over 90 minutes. He received a rousing applause and a standing ovation when his presentation was over.

Sunday was the Editor's Breakfast and due to its 8:00 a.m. your writer did not attend. Their was to be a field trip to collect Garnets at Green's Farm in Roxbury, CT after breakfast. The cold weather and rain kept most of us from attending.

All in all this was a very worthwhile trip, an interesting group of meetings, and according to the club members an excellent show and from the dealers lots of smiles on their faces. Let's consider being a club Delegate next year,

which, if memory holds, is in Syracuse, N.Y.

Barry Remer

Club Delegate

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Presented by the Northern Virginia Mineral Club, Inc. www.novamineralclub.org
Sponsored by the Dept. of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences at GMU

Date: **November 21 & 22, 2009**

\$1 OFF
1 Adult Admission
with this card.

Place: **Student Union II Building
George Mason University Campus
Braddock Rd. & Route 123, Fairfax, VA**

Hours: **Saturday 10-6, Sunday 10-4**

Admission: **Adults: \$4, Seniors & Teens (13-17): \$3,
Children 12 & under, Scouts in uniform,
and GMU Students w/ valid ID are FREE.**

Demonstrations, Exhibits, and Door Prizes. Mini-mines for children to dig in and get free fossils & minerals. Over 20 dealers with Fossils, Minerals, Crystals, and Gems for sale.

*On Campus - Look for signs to designated Mineral Show Parking.
Look for our Courtesy Shuttle to Mineral Show*

Cut along dotted line

OUR 2009 SHOW DEALERS

Arrowwood Minerals - Richard Ertel – Spotsylvania, VA
John Culberson - Minerals - Texas
John Ertman – Gems & Minerals – Rockville, MD
Robert Farrar – Minerals & Fossils - Bowie, MD
Geosol Imports – Rob Evans – Dillsburg, PA
Dave Hennessey – Minerals - Woodbridge, VA
Hartstein Fossils – Gene Hartstein – Newark, DE
Frank Hissong – Minerals - Harrisburg, VA
KBT Minerals & Fossils - Vienna, VA - Tom Taaffe
Dave Liscomb – Crystals & Jewelry - Faber, VA
Bill Mattison – Fluorescents – Gaithersburg, MD
The Mineral House - Bucyrus, Ohio - Tom & Pam Kottyan
Mineral Society of DC – Andy Thompson
Fred Parker – Minerals – Frederick, MD
The Prospector Shop - Marianne & Bill Cannon – Acme, PA
Barry Remer – Minerals - Reston, VA
Michael Shoemaker – Minerals – Manassas, VA
Wayne Sukow – Minerals – Falls Church, VA
Unique Russian Minerals – Alex Balagula – Fort Lee, NJ
Williams Minerals - Keith Williams – Rio, WV
Yinan Wang – Fossils - Arlington, VA
Barbara Ryland Wells - Wire Wrap Jewelry - Springfield, VA



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NEW!! PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
[HTTP://www.novamineralclub.org](http://www.novamineralclub.org)

The Northern Virginia Mineral Club

You can send your Newsletter articles to:

Robert Winsor
35740 Roundleaf Ct.
Round Hill, VA 20141

Or via email: [photech @ comcast.net](mailto:photech@comcast.net)

Visitors are Always Welcome at our Club Meetings.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO
VOLUNTEER TO HELP
TOM TAAFFE WITH THE
GEM, MINERAL &
FOSSIL SHOW ON
NOV. 20th, 21st or 22nd!**

Please contact Tom at:

[rockcllctr @ aol.com](mailto:rockcllctr@aol.com)

**Or call him:
703-281-3767**

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.