



THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA MINERAL CLUB INC



Crystals are the flowers of the Mineral Kingdom



THE MINERAL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 50 No. 8

OCTOBER 2009

Summer Stories, Finds

Normally, we like to have a meeting shortly after our summer break to enjoy the stories and finds of our club members. This year, our October meeting program will serve this purpose. This is a great opportunity for club members to hear the stories about the places that other club members go prospecting. This may give you an idea for a new place for you to visit, and hear the "inside story" about the locations that you might not otherwise know about.

This is also a great meeting to bring your loupe and have a look at the cool finds of fellow members, or to bring the

nice finds from your summertime adventures and share with fellow members.

So, please come to the October meeting (Monday the 26th) and bring your stories. Bring your finds. Bring your curiosity. Bring your loupe.

Also, please help by letting Tom Taaffe know how you can help with the club show in November.

The meeting is at Long Branch Nature Center off Carlin Springs Rd in Arlington. The meeting will start at 7:45pm.

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

NVMC Schedule:

26 Oct NVMC meeting at Long Branch Nature Center

20-22 Nov. Help out with the NVMC Gem, Mineral and Fossil show

23 Nov NVMC meeting and AUCTION at Long Branch Nature Center

The December meeting date has not yet been determined. Usually, it is held during the 3rd week of December. More information in next month's Newsletter.

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18th Annual GEM, MINERAL AND FOSSIL SHOW

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**

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

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Sept. Meeting Minutes

Recorded by Kathy Hrechka, Secretary

President pro-tem, Wayne Sukow called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m. To accommodate the speaker, Dr. Lance Kearns, the business meeting will occur after his program.

Program: "Tools of a Mineralogist" Dr. Lance Kearns is the Professor of Mineralogy, Dept. of Geology and Environmental Science at James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia. He presented the many tools for rock collectors from hammers and hand lenses, to SEM's and micro-probes. He also had a photo of the mineral display case which our club sponsored in the new Geology Museum at JMU.

Break for refreshments and Karen Lewis's tasty home baked goodies.

Meeting reestablished with door prizes won by Dave Hennessey, Rob Robinson, and Casper Voogt. Cheryl Simms, Ways & Means Chair promoted minerals for sale to club members.

New members included Susan & Mr. Campbell, Chris from the Easy Stone Center, and Laura Jakcsy. We welcomed student guests of Simms', Rachael and Sara.

Announcements: Dave McLean invited club members to the Baltimore Mineral symposium to be held on Oct. 2-4. Rick Reiber announced the VA Tech Mineral Show to be held on Oct. 24.

Vice-President, Barry Remer introduced George Reimherr, who gave a pondering talk on "Moon Rocks Apollo 11" Washington Post Jan. 2000. What ever happened to the 2,200 samples collected from six missions?

Show Chair, Tom Taaffe gave an update soliciting volunteers to sign up for the club show to be held



All photos this page courtesy Sheryl Sims

Nov. 20 - 22 at GMU. The list of jobs & times are listed in the September newsletter. Contact him [rockcllctr @ aol.com](mailto:rockcllctr@aol.com) 703/281-3767. He needs help with publicity immediately.

Secretary, Kathy Hrechka presented the option of new name tags to be designed like the original ones for club members. She requested that the club funds cover the expense of approximately \$10 each, with a minimum order of 15 to be placed with DeCosta Trophies, Alexandria. The motion was granted.

The minutes of the June 22 meeting were approved.

Meeting was adjourned by 9:50 p.m.



Bring your cash - our meetings will start to feature some minerals for purchase. Proceeds benefit the club.

The Prez Says

FACETS OF THE MINERAL/LAPIDARY HOBBY



Color on July 4, Lexington, VA



Rochester Symposium Auction



Quincy Steam Hoist, Calumet, MI Datolite Crystals...South Africa



The 2009-2010 NVMC year got off to a great start with a record attendance of 48 at our September. As they say in show biz, there was SRO. Lets keep it up.

Rock hounds enjoy more than rocks and minerals. Fall is a time to look around and ahead to enjoy the beauty nature provides in rocks and our environment. It's a time to anticipate changes in the NVMC such as new club officers for the coming year. It's also a time to anticipate new programs that will attract members to club meetings; do you have one you'd like to give? It's a time to look forward to another successful NVMC show on November 21 & 22.

Fall is also a time for NVMC members: to look at the many opportunities to participate, to recruit and welcome new members, to share their mineral and lapidary expertise before, during, and after meetings, and to step up to leadership positions as club officers.

Help our 2009 Show Chairman, Tom Taaffe, by signing up early to work at the show. Help our nominating committee, chaired by our VP, Barry Remer, by volunteering to assume a leadership position in 2010. Finally, help your current NVMC president by telling him what's worked in 2009 and what needs improving.

Wayne Sukow, Prez... '2009

STILL SEEKING 2009 SHOW VOLUNTEERS !!

By Tom Taaffe – Show Chairman

By Tom Taaffe – Show Chairman

Yes, we are still looking for volunteers to help out at our 18th Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show

on Nov 20, 21 and 22, 2009. Friday night set-up is typically 4 PM - 9 PM. Show hours are Sat 10 AM - 6 PM, Sun 10 AM - 4 PM.

Please don't hesitate to email me at

rockclctr@aol.com or call me at 703-281-3767.

So, where do we need more help?

Friday night (Set-up) Nov 20, - We have 2-3 volunteers to help move stuff from the storage unit to GMU but we still need someone with a good sized vehicle (Med-Lg Pickup or Suburban sized) to join them at the storage unit at 4 PM. This task is best started as early as possible while it's still light out.

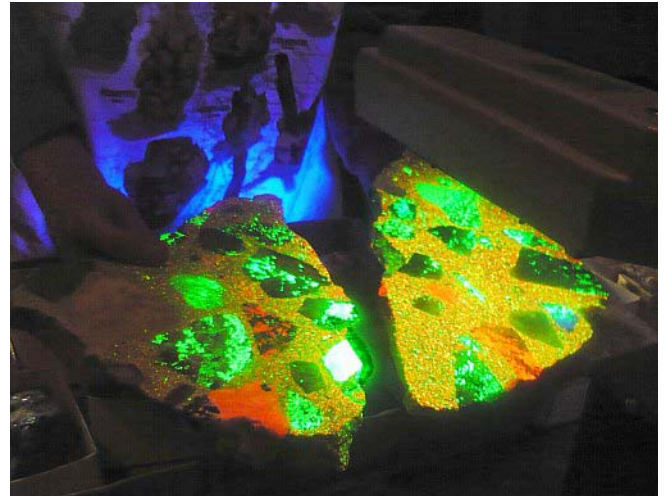
Friday, starting at 5 or 6 PM, We still need a more volunteers to assemble the necessary exhibit cases, tape blue table coverings to every table in the Ballroom and we also need to place and tape down securely our heavy duty extension cords.

FYI We usually order pizza at 7:30 PM for any starving volunteers.

Admissions, Saturday & Sunday We definitely need more people than have signed up so far to help run the Admissions desk. We are shorthanded in that area and volunteers need to take turns so that no one is overburdened with that task. Optimum shifts are 2-3 hrs and admissions are taken all day from 10 AM to about 5:30 PM. We need to cover all time slots and we DEFINITELY need back-up volunteers to be ready to take turns with whoever takes the earlier shifts.

Examples of shifts that members could volunteer for Saturday Nov 21 are 10 AM - 1 PM to be followed by 1 PM - 3 PM and finally 3 PM - 5:30 PM. On Sunday Nov 22, Shifts could be 10 AM - 1:00 PM, then 1:00 PM - to about 3:30 PM.

Kid's Activity Tables - Saturday & Sunday - This is a fun thing to do! And we need more volunteers! We've only



2008 Show Pictures



a couple of volunteers so far. They definitely can't cover all the hours of both days. We always need a minimum of 2 people at the Kid's Activity tables throughout the day starting at 10 AM. When it gets really busy in the afternoon (that can happen without warning), we will need 3 or maybe even 4 volunteers to handle the surge and administer the assorted quizzes, provide and explain answers and to help the kids select their free specimens. (Kids get one free specimen for each completed quiz)

We also need plenty of people to be ready to spell them throughout the day and share these duties.

If you are planning to be attending the show either or both days, please consider helping at the Kid's Activ-

STILL SEEKING 2009 SHOW VOLUNTEERS !! (cont.)

ity Tables for an hour or two. You won't regret it!

The Kid's tables are open the same hrs as the show, Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4.

Silent Auction on Sunday 2 PM. Rob Robinson needs at least one other person to help him run the Silent Auction. Bidding typically runs from 2 PM -3 PM on Sunday afternoon. Following the Auction, the 2 auctioneers then determine the winners and call the winners to the stage to pay for the items they won.

Sunday Night Take-down 4 PM. So far, We are seriously shorthanded in this department. We will need lots of helping hands to take down the show. This entails the following: Disassembling the exhibit cases, packing the cases safely and securely. We also remove all blue table coverings from all the tables in the ballroom, we roll up our heavy duty extension cords and putting them into the correct tubs, and we gather and properly packing up all miscellaneous

club supplies. We also now take most of the Kid's items back to the storage unit as well.

Following that, several of our stalwart club volunteers take everything back to our Fairfax storage unit and put everything away carefully for easy access and use again next year.

Another task is to fold up and stack all wooden rental tables on the rolling cart that we get from the rental company.

We are still needing and accepting donations for the Silent Auction and for hourly door prizes.

Contact Rob Robinson or Tom Taaffe. Donations can be Books, Magazines, Minerals, Fossils, Jewelry etc.

That's all I can think of for now.

Once again, PLEASE SIGN UP TO HELP!

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tom Taaffe, Show Chairman

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

Oct. Meeting Agenda

INFORMATIONAL AGENDA...Neither Action Nor Discussion Are Needed...Email me at

[d8olite @ fastmail.fm](mailto:d8olite@fastmail.fm) with names or comments.

Committee chairs filled and needed

Nominating Committee for 2009...[Jenn Hammond](#), [Barry](#)

[Remer](#), [George Rehmer](#), [Robert Clemenzi](#).

NVMC Rockhound of the Year (2009)...

Audit Committee Chair...

Historian...

Hospitality...[Karen Lewis](#)

Each-One-Teach-One Committee Chair...

Junior Activities...

Ways and Means...[Sheryl Sims](#)

Webmaster...[Casper Vooght](#)

Field Trip Chair...[Ted Carver](#)

Delegate to 2009 EFMLS Annual Meeting...[Barry Remer](#)

NVMC MEETING ---ACTION AGENDA--- 10/26/09

Call to order at 7:45 pm.

Recognize Guests...

Door Prizes...

Announcements:

Field Trips...[Ted Carver](#)

Nominations...[Barry Remer](#)

Status of 2009 NVMC Show

Other short announcements from committee chairs or audience.

Old Business

Status of the Fred Schaefermeyer scholarship for 2009

New Business...Please forward any new business item to me prior to the meeting, if you can, and be prepared to offer a motion. Thanks.. My email address is [d8olite @ fastmail.fm](mailto:d8olite@fastmail.fm)

Christmas party...Invitation from MNCA...

December 21

Adjourn for refreshments and program

October's Program... [THE FINDS AND TREASURES OF SUMMER 2009](#) ...NVMC members...

[Bring your Finds and Treasures...Plan on telling us about them](#)

Clear meeting room and leave building by 9:50 pm.

New Club Website!!

Casper Vooght 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.novamineralclub.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.

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

Schedule

24 Oct Field trip to the Manassas Quarry

26 Oct NVMC meeting at Long Branch Nature Center

20-22 Nov. Help out with the NVMC Gem, Mineral and Fossil show

23 Nov NVMC meeting and AUCTION at Long Branch Nature Center

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.

507 Carat Diamond

Just a few days prior to last month's meeting, a 507 carat diamond was unearthed on Sept. 24th at the Cullinan Diamond mine (Petra Diamonds). Several news sources covered this story, as the stone could be worth upwards of \$20M. The size of the diamond is not nearly as large as the record holding 3100+ carat diamond, but this mine seems to be the place for large diamonds, as the record holding diamond came from this same mine. The 507 carat diamond recently discovered happened to be found near a few other 50+ carat sized diamonds, all of exceptional clarity. Check out these websites for more information and photos:

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200909291217.html>

<http://petradiamonds.com/im/gallery.php>

Treasurer's Note

Thanks to all for the early payment of 2010 dues. The meetings are very hectic with my taking in funds and reimbursing expenses, (along with my gabbing with other members.) If you pay your dues in cash at the meeting please provide me with a small note with your printed name, amount of cash, phone number, and email address. I try to post member dues payments within 48 hours. If you don't get an email receipt within 48 hours please let me know by sending an email to rickgr3@comcast.net. Checks generally aren't a problem unless the name on the check is different from how you registered as a member.

-Rick Reiber, Treasurer

President (Interim): Wayne Sukow

[d8olite @ fastmail.fm](mailto:d8olite@fastmail.fm) (703) 280-8108

Vice President: Barry Remer

[bsbremer @ comcast.net](mailto:bsbremer@comcast.net)

Secretary: Kathy Hrechka

[kshrechka @ msn.com](mailto:kshrechka@msn.com) (703) 765-3187

Treasurer: Rick Reiber

[rickgr3 @ comcast.net](mailto:rickgr3@comcast.net) (703) 578-4224

The Lincoln Penny, and Lunar Rocks by George Reimherr

The Lincoln Penny

The year 2009 marks the 100th anniversary of the first minting of the Lincoln Penny. That penny, celebrated the 100th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. The US Mint is still producing the Lincoln cents, and it costs about 1.2 cents to produce each penny. There are more Lincoln pennies in circulation today than any other US coin.

Lunar Rocks

Monday, July 20, 2009 is the 40th anniversary of the first lunar landing, made by Apollo 11. Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin used the Lunar Module to descend to the moon's surface, while Michael Collins remained in lunar orbit, waiting their return. Some interesting facts/results of the Apollo program lunar landings are as follows:

1. The combined weight of the spacesuits, plus the water and oxygen systems worn during the first spacewalks was 30 pounds on the moon - or about 180 pounds on Earth.
2. Lunar dust was a problem. Returning moon walkers complained of eye, sinus, and skin irritation from the lunar dust, which dust also affected mechanical operations.

Correction to May Minutes by George Reimherr

George Reimherr shared (read) an article from the June 2009 issue of Discover Magazine, relating to Phobos, the potato-shaped inner satellite of Mars. The Russians have launched 20 probes to Mars since 1960, and all either failed or suffered from severe technical problems. Their next attempt, possibly by October 2009, will be a 3 year mission to land a probe on Phobos, scoop up a soil sample, and return the sample to Earth for analysis.

3. The Apollo 11 moonwalks collected 46 pounds of moon rocks to bring back to Earth. Altogether, the 6 Apollo moon landings resulted in about 800 pounds of moon rocks that were returned to Earth.
4. Apollo 11's seismic experiment revealed that the moon has a crust, mantle, and core, and experiences regular moonquakes.
5. There is only one Apollo experiment still returning data. It was laser beams sent from Earth and reflected back from the moon to the Earth, to measure the exact distance from the Earth to the moon. This distance increases 1.5 inches each year - which calculates to about 24 miles in one million years.
6. NASA plans to send astronauts to the moon again by 2020, with it's Constellation program. Meanwhile, Europe, India, China and Japan have begun satellite exploration of the lunar surface.

Source of information for this article: Discover Magazine, issue for July/August, 2009.

SPAM!

By Robert Winsor

Some readers have noticed that in the newsletter there are email addresses that have spaces surrounding the "@" symbol in the address. The reason for this is to help control SPAM! Spam is annoying email that can simply be described as unsolicited email advertising. Many times, spam includes viruses or other harmful data files that you don't want. But usually, it leads to a ton of messages you don't want. There are people out there that get your email address by writing a simple computer program. The program automatically browses the internet, looking for email addresses. The programs usually look for the "@" symbol with non-space characters surrounding it. So, to control spam, I place spaces around the @ symbol to try to control spam, since this newsletter is posted on the club website.

More photos from our September meeting. Thanks to Sheryl Sims for taking these!



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MINERAL CLUB
INC



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NEW!! PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
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

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:

rockcclctr@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.