



THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA MINERAL CLUB INC



Crystals are the flowers of the Mineral Kingdom



THE MINERAL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 50 No. 7

SEPTEMBER 2009

Tools of a Mineralogist

(from the simple to the sublime)

Our presenter for September: There is something here for everyone. Information for the first week novice to the long time expert. From hammers and hand lenses, to SEM's and micro-probes.

Please join us for our September meeting, when we will have this presentation by Dr. Lance Kearns. Some of us have been to Dr. Kearns' lab at James Madison University, utilizing the tools in his lab to help us identify some of our finds.

Please also consider joining us for a dinner with Dr. Kearns prior to the meeting at 6pm at the Olive Garden restaurant in Bailey's Crossroads:

Olive Garden
3548 S. Jefferson Street
Falls Church, VA

(It is across from Skyline Towers & Target on King Street)

Turn to page 2 for a brief autobiography on Dr. Kearns.

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

NVMC Schedule:

26-27 Sept Howard Co. MD Gem, Min, Jewelry Show

28 Sept NVMC meeting at Long Branch Nature Center

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

Northern Virginia Mineral Club presents its 18th Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show co-sponsored by GMU's Dept of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences

November 21 & 22, 2009

Show site - George Mason University, Student Union Bldg II, Rte 123 & Braddock Rd, Fairfax, VA

Hrs: Saturday 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM, Sunday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

20 plus Dealers selling Minerals, Fossils, Crystals, Gems, Jewelry, Meteorites & more!

Also, Demonstrations, Exhibits & Door Prizes. Kid's Activities including Quizzes, Puzzles,

Mini-mines & Fossil Dig. Silent Auction on Sunday afternoon.

Adults \$4, Seniors (65+) \$3, Teens (13-17) \$3, Children (12 & under) FREE, Scouts in uniform FREE and GMU students are FREE w/valid ID.

When on campus, look for signs to designated Mineral Show parking.

We will probably be using GMU Parking Lot A (east) again this year.

Enter Lot A from Nottaway River Lane just off of Patriot Circle near GMU's Aquatic center. Parking in Lot A is free.

Look for our courtesy shuttle to the Mineral Show.

If walking, follow posted directional signs to Student Union II Bldg.

Contact: Tom Taaffe
rockclctr @ aol.com

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June Meeting Minutes

By Robert Winsor, Newsletter Editor

Unfortunately, the minutes for the June meeting have been misplaced. We may have them officially published next month, if they are found.

Based on the feeble memory of the newsletter editor in attendance at the meeting, here is a rough sketch (which may be wrong).

THESE MEETING MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL and provided merely for amusement at how little the newsletter editor seems to be able to remember!

Meeting was called to order (sometime before 8pm)

Barry Remer was voted club Vice President for the remainder of 2009

The topic of the EFMLS annual meeting in Bristol, CT was brought up and the point was made that our club

needs a representative in attendance. Barry Remer volunteered to attend. A motion was made to have Barry represent the club at the meeting, which was passed.

Tom Taaffe made an announcement about the upcoming Gem, Mineral and Fossil show, encouraging people to sign up to help. Tom also mentioned the increased costs for the show. A motion was made to increase the

Ted Carver made announcements pertaining to increase the per-table cost to \$50 to cover the increasing costs. The motion passed.

Patrick Haynes gave a slide presentation about micro-minerals from the Four Corners region.

Dr. Lance Kearns, Professor of Mineralogy

Autobiography for our September Speaker

I am Lance E. Kearns, Professor of Mineralogy, Dept of Geology and Environmental Science at James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia, 22807. I have been at James Madison University since 1976. I am founder and curator of the James Madison University Mineral Museum and Director of the Scanning Electron Microscope Regional Facility. I was the 1990 recipient of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, American Federation Scholarship Foundation Award. I am a member of the Mineralogical Society of America, Honorary Member of the Pennsylvania chapter of Friends of Mineralogy and Charter Member of the Southeastern Chapter of Friends of Mineralogy, as well as honorary member of MMNCA.

My undergraduate B.S. degree is from Waynesburg College in southwestern Pennsyl-

vania. My M.S. and Ph.D. are from the University of Delaware. My doctoral dissertation was a study of the Mineralogy of the Franklin Marble, Orange Co., New York. Some of my favorite publications in past years involved the Mineralogy of the Morefield Pegmatite, the discovery of the Alumino-fluoride mineral assemblage at the Morefield Pegmatite, The Mineralogy of the Sugar Grove, W. Va. intrusion, The Mineralogy of the Elmwood – Gordonsville zinc mines in Tennessee, both in The Mineralogical Record, and just last year in the American Mineral Treasures Book. My most recent article is on the Mineralogy of the Buck Hill Syenite in Augusta Co., Virginia which appeared in Rocks and Minerals last month.

The Prez Says

Participating and Sharing

Geology For Granddaughters



September is the month when we kick off the NVMC New Year. It's our first meeting in several months followed by a busy October getting candidates for club officers for 2009. Then it's the November Show and the December Christmas Party. There's a lot of work to be done and fun to be had, if you participate. Plan on it.



Feather Ore- Hematite



A comment about the NVMC November 21-22, 2009 show, Tom Taaffe is continuing as both the Dealer Chairman and Show Chair for coordinating all the other aspects. Plan on helping Tom. It can be fun when there are many hands. Sign-up early, TONIGHT.

I'm looking forward to the September meeting and hearing stories about your summer activities. Bring your stories to the September and other 2009-10 NVMC meetings. Plan on exhibiting specimens from your collection at the NVMC show in November. The public loves seeing them.

Wayne Sukow, Prez

Wayne's Woods



Bill Bingham Designed and Built Lapidary Equipment-Flat Lap With Jam Peg and Saw

Sept. Meeting Agenda

INFORMATIONAL AGENDA:

There will be no October Executive Board Meeting

Committee chairs are needed ...

Announcements: Be prepared to have brochures etc to distribute. Also, make a one-minute presentation and give the audience an email address or phone number for further information.

Report on summer '09 Field Trips...John "Ted" Carver.

How is the new NV web site working for members? Tell us of any problems or of any good features that we can share with the Web Master.

Bring material to show and tell about that supports the evening speaker.

ACTION AGENDA:

Call to order at 7:45 pm.

Recognize Guests

Approval of April meeting minutes.

Old business... Identify action item and have motion prepared. If you can, please forward any new business item to me prior to the meeting and be prepared to offer a motion. Thanks. My email address is d8olite@fastmail.fm.

The 2009 NVMC Nominating Committee of three is chaired by the Vice-President, Barry Remer. Please say "yes" when he asks you to serve on the committee. Make the committee's job easier by volunteering to serve as an officer.

Other items....

Adjourn meeting.

10-minute Refreshment break

September Program...Dr. Lance Kearns from James Madison University will be doing a presentation titled, "Tools of a Mineralogist": from the simple to the sublime.

End Program and Depart for Home by 9:50

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.

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

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October 12 Field Trip

Official Northern Virginia Mineral Club Collecting Trip Invitation

(From Jack Donner - Tidewater Club)

Mt. Athos Aggregate Quarry, 1299 Stage Road,
Concord, VA

Saturday, October 12 from 8 am to 12:30 pm.

Announcing a mineral collecting trip to the Mt. Athos Aggregate Quarry in Concord, VA .

Check it out at:

<http://www.mindat.org/loc.php?loc=30844>

This invitation comes to us courtesy of Jack Donner, who should be profusely thank by all No-VaMiCl members in attendance. Genuflecting optional.

Disclaimer: The availability of these minerals depends on where they are working in the quarry at the time of the field trip and that some of the occurrences are very small. However, you can dream all you like.

Here's the address (again):

Mt. Athos Aggregate Quarry,
1299 Stage Road
Concord, VA

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.

Standard full dress safety precautions apply. Here's what you'll NEED:

1: **Steel Toed Boots** - ugly, heavy and required.

2: **Safety Goggles** - polarized lenses are a good idea, but hey, you look good in any kind.

3: **Heavy Work Gloves** - October is "Keep all 10 fingers" month.

4: **Safety Helmets** - Keep your brain case intact, you'll be glad you did.

5: **Young Folks** - Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

NOTE: Severe weather, meteor strike, outbreak of plague or other crisis out of our control may result in the canceling or rescheduling of this trip. If there is any question, please call me to confirm the trip.

Contact Ted Carver at 703.754.2050 (h), 571.344.4958 (c) or, preferably, email at jtcarverock@msn.com

President (Interim): Wayne Sukow

d8olite@fastmail.fm (703) 280-8108

Vice President: Barry Remer

Secretary: Kathy Hrechka

kshrechka@msn.com (703) 765-3187

Treasurer: Rick Reiber

rickgr3@comcast.net (703) 578-4224

SEEKING 2009 SHOW VOLUNTEERS !!

By Tom Taaffe – Show Chairman

Yes, we are eagerly looking for volunteers to help out at our 18th Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show. The location is the same as last year, the Ballroom at the Student Union II Bldg (SUB II) on GMU's campus in Fairfax, VA.

The dates are Nov 20, 21 and 22, 2009. The club would greatly appreciate your support whenever and wherever you can help on one or more of these days. Show hours are Sat 10 AM - 6 PM, Sun 10 AM - 4 PM. Each of these 3 days, we will need help in different areas.

Please don't hesitate to email me at rockcllctr@aol.com or you can call me at 703-281-3767 if you would like to volunteer or if you have any further questions.

Please sign up **well in advance** of the to aid Show planning !! Thanks!

Friday night (Set-up) Nov 20, starting around **3 or 4 PM**, the 1st step will be transporting all the necessary campus directional signs, a quantity of club exhibit cases, 2 tubs of heavy duty extension cords and assorted supplies from our Fairfax storage unit to GMU's SUB II. We also need to transport whatever additional supplies and bins of specimens that are designated for the Kid's Activity Tables.

This task will require **2 large or 3 medium sized vehicles** and perhaps 3-4 volunteers to load and unload. **Between 4 & 5 PM on Friday**, We typically make any final table and floor plan adjustments that are needed and we measure aisle width and overall we make sure the ballroom layout will handle all our requirements. At this time, We also set-up any rental tables that are needed in addition to tables provided by GMU. I need one or preferably two helpers to do this task properly.

Friday, starting at 5 or 6 PM, we will need 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 Nov 21, We absolutely need 2 responsible club volunteers at all times running the Admissions table. 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 are 10 AM - 1 PM to be followed by 1 PM - 3 PM and finally 3 PM - 5:30 PM. Show closes at 6:00 PM Sat.

Admissions Sunday Nov 22, Shifts could be 10 AM - 1:00 PM, then 1:00 PM - to about 3:30 PM. Show closes at 4 PM Sunday.

Kid's Activity Tables - Saturday & Sunday - This is a fun thing to do! 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 (approx 11 AM - 3 PM), we will need 3 or maybe even 4 volunteers to 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 Activity 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. We typically need 2 people to manage this event. The auction tables need to be arranged on the stage in advance and the auction items need to be organized and placed to maximum effect. Auction set-up needs to be completed preferably before 1 PM. 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. 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

SEEKING 2009 SHOW VOLUNTEERS !! (cont.)

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, our numerous wonderful and selfless 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.

Mailing List and Show Postcards. – I could still use some help updating the club mailing list (not yet at-

tempted) and also I could use help stamping and labeling the postcards. The mailing list update can hopefully be completed in Mid-October.

The postcard labeling and stamping task typically happens in late October.

That's it for now. Additional info will probably follow in the October newsletter.

Once again, **PLEASE SIGN UP EARLY** to aid 2009 Show Planning.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tom Taaffe

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

Adventure to NASA's Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas

by Kathy Hrechka

My son Michael (age 12) and I took one last adventure before school resumed; a trip to Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. We happened to be there while the Shuttle Discovery STS-128 was preparing to lift-off to the International Space Station. Lift-off from Cape Canaveral occurred on August 28.

The Apollo program is celebrating their 40 year anniversary of Apollo 11. Our tour included a visit to "Apollo Era" Mission Control, the Training Facility of the International Space Station, Apollo 18 (which never took off), and the museum and vault where the moon rocks are secured. We also attended numerous presentations with great video coverage of NASA's history. Michael enjoyed the shuttle landing simulator.

I was mesmerized in the vault, as I touched a piece of the cosmos that is 3.8 billion years old. This moon rock (basalt) was brought back to Earth by the Apollo 17 crew December 1972. I focused on two things: Moon's Element & Mineral breakdown.

<u>Element Breakdown</u>	<u>Mineral Breakdown</u>
Oxygen 42.0%	Pyroxene 39.9%
Silicon 19.3%	Plagioclase 39.5%
Titanium 4.5%	Ilmenite 14.3%
Aluminum 7.3%	Olivene 6.0%
Iron 12.3%	Other .4%
Magnesium 4.8%	
Calcium 8.9%	
Other .9%	

We learned about the new Constellation Program (replacing the Shuttle Program). The Ares V heavy lift-launch vehicle and the Altair Lunar Lan-



der will be the next generation to travel to the ISS. Scheduled to launch October 31, Kennedy Space Center launch pad 39B, the Ares-I-X flight test will be NASA'S first test for the Agency's new Constellation launch vehicle – Ares I.

Celebrating 50 years of NASA (1958 – 2008) my son & I brought back with us the slogan "FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION". I hope Michael will reflect on this message while back at school this year.



MOON ROCKS



MISSION CONTROL

This page left unintentionally blank. Hopefully next month, a cool article from a club member will be here, possibly covering a summertime adventure or whatever might come to a writer's imagination!

THE
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VIRGINIA

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](mailto: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.