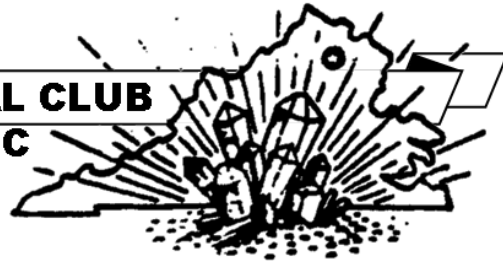




# THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA MINERAL CLUB INC



Crystals are the flowers of the Mineral Kingdom



## THE MINERAL NEWSLETTR

VOLUME 49 No. 3

MARCH 2008

### Time for an Auction!

**March** is one of the **NVMC AUCTION** months. All NVMC members can enter items for the auction; they receive 85% of the winning bid and the NVMC gets the other 15%. It's a fun way to sell minerals and hobby related items while supporting the NVMC at the same time. Bring

**Good Stuff** to borrow a phrase from the EFMLS Wildacres Auction, stay till the end, and bid often. Winning is fun. *The Prez*

Please see inside the newsletter for updated auction rules and bid slips

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

### NVMC Schedule:

**March Field Trip postponed to the 22nd.**

**March Meeting on the 24th at 7:45pm**

**Auction! At the March meeting.**

**April Field Trip on the 12th**

**April Meeting on the 28th**

**GMMC May 13th**

### April Field Trip - National Limestone Quarry

**FIELD TRIP** – April 12th: National Limestone Quarry, 217 Quarry Road, Mount Pleasant Mills, PA 17853. Check in no later than 8:45 am. We will collect from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. This quarry is terrific for wavellite, strontianite, fluorite, pyrite, chalcocopyrite, calcite, Silurian marine fossils, and more. Kids are welcome if accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. This is a hard rock quarry and you will need heavy boots, hard hat, safety goggles, heavy work gloves, rock hammer, rock chisels, buckets/egg cartons and paper to wrap specimens. To help you find

the fossils and wavellite, I recommend that you bring a large pump sprayer filled with water to hose down the mud covering the wavellite and fossil bearing rock. Don't forget plenty of drinking water, snacks and sunscreen. Open to club members only. All participants must notify John Boyer no later than Wednesday, April 9th via email or call John at 703-349-1287. When emailing, include a good contact phone number in case of last minute changes or cancellation.

[jwskboyer@cox.net](mailto:jwskboyer@cox.net)

### Inside this issue:

The Prez Says, NVMC Auction	2
March Meeting, Auction bid slips	3
Field Trip, Schedule,	4
Trip To James Madison University	5
Rock Trading	6,7
February Meeting Minutes	8,9
Board of Directors	9



Wavellite (left) and Strontianite puff balls on Calcite (right) from the National Limestone Quarry in Mt. Pleasant Mills, PA.

## The Prez Says

From all reports I've heard anyone who missed the February meeting missed a great one! The sharing time was the key, thanks Kathy Hreckha, and popular enough that those present never got to the work of cataloging the NVMC library. Oh well, that can wait. The sharing also resulted in some new program presenters being identified since they didn't get a chance to tell all at the meeting.

March is one of the NVMC AUCTION months. All NVMC members can enter items for the auction; they receive 85% of the winning bid and the NVMC gets the other 15%. It's a fun way to sell minerals and hobby related items while supporting the NVMC at the same time. Bring Good Stuff to borrow a phrase from the EFMLS Wildacres Auction, stay till the end, and bid often. Winning is fun.

NEEDED, the NVMC is looking for a club member

to be our 2008 show coordinator. Tom Taaffe has his hands full with the dealers and set-up in the ballroom at GMU. Please email me if you have questions.

Have you heard about the Wonderful World of Agates Symposium in Oshkosh, Wisconsin in early July of this year? If you're an agate aficionado you won't want to miss it. I'll try to get some descriptive brochures. Watch this space for more next month.

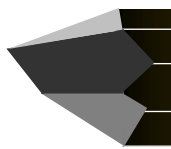
**DUES ARE DUE.** To participate in NVMC activities you need to be a 2008 NVMC club member, so remember that our Treasure, Rick Reiber, is collecting NVMC 2008 membership dues. He'll take cash or checks at the meeting. No increase this year

"Is anyone listening" or "Is anyone reading?" Do you have comments on the newsletter or NVMC activities? Please let me know... plan on attending a NVMC Exec Board meeting. We can accommodate four members plus the Board. Join us at 3156 Eakin Park Court, Fairfax, VA. Just send me an email that you're coming, my address is [d8olite@fastmail.fm](mailto:d8olite@fastmail.fm) — *Wayne Sukow, Prez.*

## NVMC AUCTION OPs - 2008

Members who've participated in Northern Virginia Mineral Club auctions know that they are a lot of fun, and contain spirited bidding. To maximize bidding time, we have developed the following new procedures:

1. We keep the old rule that says, you must be a member of the NVMC to sell material at the auction. Check the list of 2008 members to date that the Treasurer has. Current membership list will be posted.
2. We keep the old rule that says, anyone can be a bidder and buyer at the auction. NVMC membership is not needed.
3. We keep the old rule that says; all material for auction must be hobby related.
4. Tweaking an old rule; all bid increments must be at least \$1 for bids on items between \$1 and \$25. Above \$25 bid increments must be \$5.
5. Tweaking an old rule; items with multiple bids on the bid slip before the auction begins will be auctioned early in the evening.
6. A totally new rule; all bidders will sign in, and be given a numbered paddle. You bid by raising your numbered paddle.
7. A totally new rule; all payments are made when the bidding is ended. The bidding will be stopped at 9:30 p.m. so we can be the out of the building by the 10 p.m. requirement.
8. Back to the trusted and true old rule that's at the heart of all auctions; bid often and bid quickly. Winning is fun. Bidding against friends and yourself are not only allowed, they are encouraged. Remember that the NVMC gets 15% of the sale price of all items and 100% of the sale price of club items.



# March Meeting Agenda

NVMC---AGENDA---03/24/08

- 1. Call to order at 7:45 pm.  
Recognize guests...  
Recognize Past presidents
- 2. Announcements... Information Only  
Field Trips...short comments only  
Other short, time-sensitive announcements from committee chairs or audience.  
NVMC Executive Committee April Meeting...  
April 10th at 7:45 PM  
Executive Board actions in March  
    IRS Tax forms  
    State of Virginia Incorporation Form and

Fee.  
Eastern Federation 2008 Membership.

- 3. Old Business...Action items.  
Report of VP Nominating Committee. Call for nominations for NVMC Vice President-2008. ELECTION.  
2008-appreciation gift for Long branch Nature Center...Ideas from Barry Remer
- 4. New Business... Action items.  
Approval of minutes of February '08 NVMC meeting.
- 5. Adjourn for the AUCTION

# Auction Bid Slips

Please bring one copy of a bid slip (below) for each item you wish to put up for auction.

Auction Bid Slip

Mineral Name \_\_\_\_\_

Locality \_\_\_\_\_

Owner \_\_\_\_\_

Minimum Bid \_\_\_\_\_

Bidder's Name

Bid Amount

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Buyer's Name

Price

_____	_____
-------	-------

Auction Bid Slip

Mineral Name \_\_\_\_\_

Locality \_\_\_\_\_

Owner \_\_\_\_\_

Minimum Bid \_\_\_\_\_

Bidder's Name

Bid Amount

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Buyer's Name

Price

_____	_____
-------	-------



Chabazite (top) and Stilbite (bottom) from Manassas Quarry

## Field Trip - Manassas Quarry

**P O S T P O N E D ! !**  
**Due to weather**

**Saturday, March 22nd**

2008's first field trip is to the Vulcan Materials Company - Manassas Quarry, Saturday, March 22th, 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. The field trip is limited to 25 participants, and was full prior to the weather delay. If you planned to attend, but can not make it due to the postponement, please let John know so that another club member can take your place.

**John Boyer must know of your plans to attend before Friday, March 21st 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](mailto:jwskboyer@cox.net)**

## Schedule

Upcoming Events to plan for:

- 22 March: Field Trip to Manassas Quarry
- 24 March: NVMC Meeting & Auction
- 12 April: Field Trip National Limestone Quarry
- 18-24 April: Wildacres Spring Dates
- 26 April: Trotter Diggg at Sterling Hill
- 28 April: NVMC Meeting
- 13 May General Mineral Miner Certification

Date for the May meeting is still TBD

### Don't Forget!

Wildacres spring dates are approaching, so register soon.

Be sure to register for the Trotter Diggg before it exceeds capacity of 200 people. Register at least 2 weeks ahead of time.

Registration for the GMMC is also required. Be sure to fill out the paperwork before attending (links included in last month's newsletter).

## April Program

April 28, 2008 program for NVMC at the Long Branch Nature Center, Arlington, VA

"Diamonds-Out of Africa" Speaker, Denise Nelson, GG, NAJA will speak on the "Forbidden Zone", the restricted area along the Namibian coast of Africa. In this presentation, she will share a first-hand look inside the diamond mining operations of Namibia and South Africa. It is a journey rarely witnessed by other than DeBeers insiders. You will hear about major changes which will impact the diamond industry and possibly change it forever.

## Go Emerald

Electronic Newsletter: You can save some paper by electing to have the electronic-only newsletter. Just send email to the editor to have your newsletter delivered by email only. It saves money, you get the newsletter sooner, and it is in full color. Send email to [photech@comcast.net](mailto:photech@comcast.net)

## Trip to James Madison University

February 16, 2008

By Kathy Hrechka

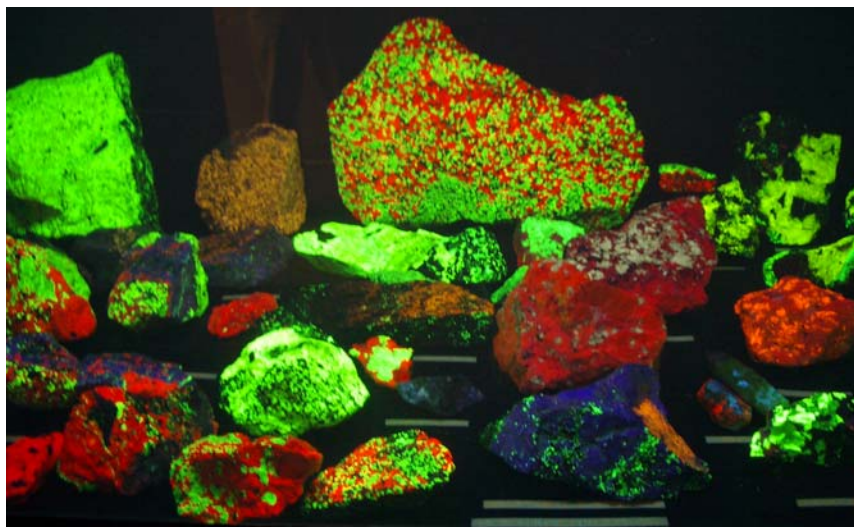
Dr. Lance Kearns, Curator of the Mineral Museum at JMU, Harrisonburg, Virginia has recently given club members a first class tour of the newly opened mineral museum, as well as his geology lab. For years, club members from MNCA have made an annual trip to visit with Dr. Kearns and his wife, Cindy. Usually, club members bring unknown minerals which Dr. Kearns tests in his Scanning Electron Microscope for identification.

This year, George & Doug Rambo, Dave Mc Clean, George Reimherr, Tom Tucker, Kathy Hrechka, Robert Clemenzi, and Eric Thompson made the trip. They were privileged to view the Cosminsky micro diamond collection, along with the Ulinski micromount collection. The excitement of the day began in the mineral museum, as Eric laid claim to the "world's largest" Virginia turquoise. We also admired the showcase which our club has co-sponsored, containing Inosilicates and Phyllosilicates. Dr. Kearns is photographed along side of our case.

The SEM was not available for our use this year, but we had plenty of other minerals to play with. Kathy enjoyed the variety of Herkimers. Tom busied himself with rare micros. George and Doug, Dave, George, and Robert enjoyed all rocks in the geology lab.

The new museum, which opened last October, displays over 550 spectacular and rare specimens. Most of the twelve large display cases are organized in a systematic collection. A special room contains fluorescent

minerals from Franklin/Sterling Hill, NJ. The collection began in 1976 under the curator of Dr. Lance Kearns. Initial support was given by the University of Delaware Mineral Museum and the Bryn Mawr College Mineral Museum. Through gifts, the Virginia Minerals collection is now endowed through the James Madison University Foundation. You may explore the museum online at <http://csm.jmu.edu/minerals>



## Rock Trading

by John Boyer

As rockhounds, there are several ways in which we may acquire new specimens for our collection – purchase from a dealer, receive as gifts, win as a door or raffle prize, or trade among your fellow rockhounds (someone you know). But have you ever considered trading with complete strangers across the country and around the world? I have with rousing success, for only the cost of postage. Over the past 15 years I've traded with collectors in Kansas, California, Washington, Wyoming, Ontario, British Columbia, England, Tasmania and, most recently, Italy. I learned about these guys through fellow rockhounds, in Rock Trader Digest (now gone), the Internet, or as recently occurred, by direct contact from an Italian collector who stumbled onto me on the Internet (I'm listed as the field trip point of contact on our club's website, [www.mineralclub.org](http://www.mineralclub.org)). He sent me an email offering to trade Italian minerals for what-



ever I might have. We corresponded, got to know one another, and traded several locally collected specimens. I received 30 crystal specimens from the Tuscany region and Elba Island that I've never seen anywhere else. He, in turn, received personally collected minerals and fossils from Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Utah and Arizona not available from dealers where he lives. Both of us were thrilled with the trade.



This trade, and others before, was made sight unseen and basically on faith that my trading partner was 1) honest, and 2) had the same high standard that I do. Unfortunately, that has not been the case on two trades (out of a dozen very good ones). After sending very good quality minerals, I received what can best be described as drainage-ditch-fill in return (literally, they are in my drainage ditch to control erosion). That has not stopped me from trying again.

So, think you might like to give it a try? I like to check Rock and Gem Magazine's website, [www.rockhounds.com](http://www.rockhounds.com), and click on the Rock Trader Classifieds for Mineral or Fossils Offered, Minerals or Fossils Wanted, or someone seeking a rockhound pen pal. I've posted free ads here soliciting trades. I also run Internet searches using terms such as "mineral trading/wanted", "rock trading/wanted", "fossil trading/wanted". Keep in mind that you will hit on sights that advertise mineral trading, but in fact are retail sites that will trade you their overpriced specimens for cash

## Rock Trading (continued)

only. I look for traders who want to actually trade specimen-for-specimen and the only cost is postage.

There are some (cue the morbid music, please) *Rules of Thumb* to consider when trading with other collectors to help you make the best possible trade:

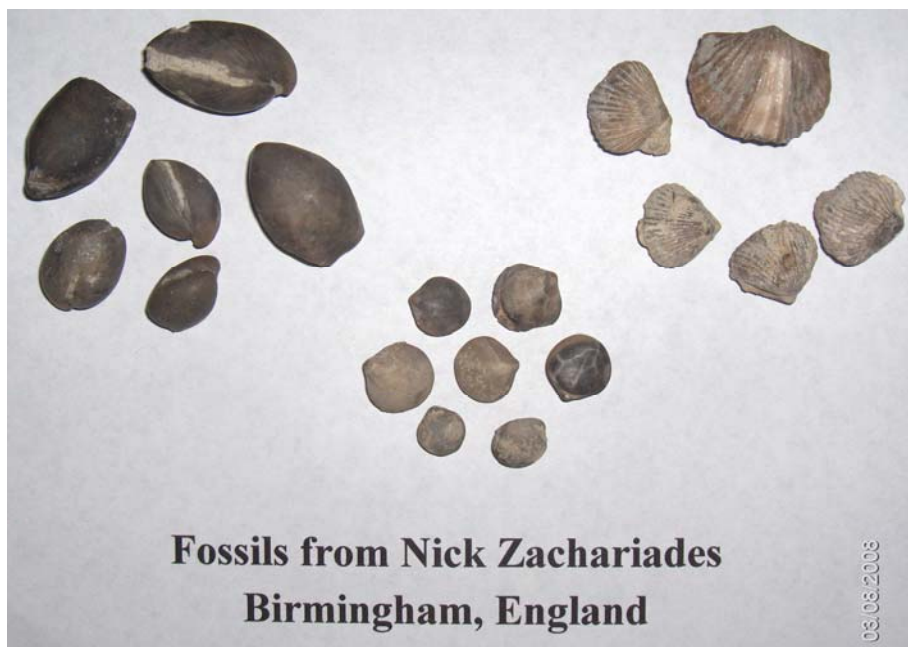
- \* Get to know your trading partner. I haven't met one yet face-to-face, so I have to depend on a gut feeling of their honesty and sincerity via mail, email or phone calls. If you can, get a feel for their standard of quality. Exchange specimen photos if you can.
- \* If your trading partner's first language is not English, communicate in short, elementary words and phrases. Be patient with their weak grammar and spelling. Learn and use greetings and salutations in their language to strengthen the bond.
- \* Be clear what you're offering and what you like and don't like. I prefer crystal specimens with emphasis on calcite and fluorite, fluorescents and invertebrate fossils. I don't care for lapidary rough, micro-mounts or what I like to refer to as (cue the morbid music again) "The Usual Suspects."

\* The What!? What I'm talking about is the usual dealer inventory – most anything from Brazil, Uruguay, Peru, Morocco, Arkansas, India, The Congo, the Morenci Mine, the Red Cloud Mine, Cave-in-Rock, etc., etc., ad naseum – stuff virtually every dealer around the world has for sale. I have them already and from personal experience, your potential trading partner probably has them too. What they really want is that one of a kind specimen from a local site that does not commonly appear for sale.

\* Lastly, a little faith is some-



times necessary. I got a pretty good feeling about Fabio, my new Italian friend, from our email exchanges. I decided to send him a box on faith and asked him to wait and see the specimens before reciprocating. He was thrilled, and a few weeks later I happily added several new and different specimens to my collection. For only the cost of postage.



## February Meeting Minutes

### 25 February 2008

Kathy Hrechka, Secretary called the meeting to order at 8 PM Monday 25 February 2008 in the long Branch Nature Center, Arlington, VA.

The minutes of the 28 January 2008 meeting were approved as published

**Recognition of past presidents:** Past presidents of NVMC David Ball and Rob Robinson and Past President of EFLMS Matt Charsky were recognized.

**Announcements:** John Boyer said that the NVMC field trip to Manassas Quarry (diabase) on Saturday 8 March was filled up with 8-10 persons on the waiting list.

He asked NVMC members to sign up for the field trip is Saturday 12 April to a limestone quarry (calcite, strontianite, wavellite, brachiopod fossils) at Mt. Pleasant Mills, PA.

Robert Winsor accepted appointment as editor of the NVMC **The Mineral Newsletter** starting with the February 2008 issue. He asked members wanting to receive the newsletter by email to let him know at [photech@comcast.net](mailto:photech@comcast.net). Submitted articles are requested.

The Gem, Lapidary, Mineral Society of Montgomery County GLMSMC show will be Saturday-Sunday 15-16 March at the Montgomery Fairgrounds in Rockville, MD.

The EFLMS Wildacres session near Marion, North Carolina will be 18-24 April and 8-14 September 2008.

The Micromineralogists of the National Capitol Area MNCA attended a workshop and visited the new mineral museum at James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA. MNCA and NVMC jointly bought an exhibit case for this museum.

The 35<sup>th</sup> Atlantic Micromounters Conference will be Friday-Sunday 28, 29, 30 March at the MHA Conference Center in Elkridge, MD.

The Southern Maryland club show is Saturday 29 March

Kathy Hrechka mentioned that NVMC is offering help for scouts for the geology merit badge. There are websites for Capitol area mineral clubs: [\[alclub.org\]\(http://alclub.org\) and \[DCmineralclubs.org\]\(http://DCmineralclubs.org\)](http://miner-</a></p>
</div>
<div data-bbox=)

### Nominations

The nominating committee nominated Jennifer Hammond as vice president for election at the NVMC 26 March meeting. She asked for program recommendations and contacts

### Committee appointments

NVMC show Saturday-Sunday 22-23 November 2008 at George Mason University. Tom Taffe agreed to solicit, enroll and assign space to the dealers. NVMC needs a person to chair the rest of the show including recruiting and directing volunteers for setup, operation and takedown.

Audit, volunteers are needed to audit the 2007 financial records.

Hospitality, Karen Lewis for her 20<sup>th</sup> year Historian, David MacLean  
Activities for "Juniors", vacant  
Ways and Means, Rob Robinson  
Webmaster, Mark Schultz

### New business

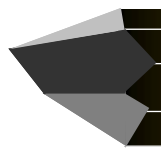
Kathy Hrechka asked for suggestions for the annual gift to the Long Branch Nature Center. Barry Remer will consult with others about the gift.

**Budget 2008:** The 31 December 2007 balances were: checking \$6500 and scholarship account \$950.

Rick Reiber, Treasurer, presented a summary of 2007 expenses and proposed budget for 2008. In 2007 the cost per member was \$16.38 versus dues of \$15.00. the surplus from the show (\$500) and auctions (\$200) will make up the difference. Expenses (cash basis) for 2007 projected and actual respectively were \$7100 and \$6252. Expenses (cash basis) estimated for 2008 are \$6594. A \$500 surplus of income above expenses is expected for 2008.

By motion duly made and seconded the members present approved the budget for 2008. EFLMS Jackson, MS convention report Matt Charsky reported that Georgia Olmsted, Georgia and Tom Tucker, John Boyer, and Peter Chin received EFLMS award certificates for either the NVMC newsletter or an article written in the





# Minutes, Continued

NVMC newsletter.

EFLMS will increase the annual dues from \$1.25 per club member to \$1.75 per club member per year.

### Door Prize

Robert Winsor and John Boyer won the drawing for the two door prizes.

### Show and tell

John Boyer, Lois H. Dowell, Karen Lewis, George Reimherr, and David Hennesey presented.

By motion duly made and seconded the meeting adjourned at 9 PM

### EFLMS Awards received for 2007

NVMC congratulates the following 2008 EFMLS award winners

Georgia Olmsted, Small bulletins

Georgia Olmsted "What do you do with unusual rocks" nontechnical article

Georgia Olmsted "Summer Field Trips" written features, nontechnical article

Georgia Olmsted and Tom Tucker "Fluorite", nontechnical article

Peter Chin article "Tale of Two Siderites" article

### Other Awards

Alec Brenner, age 12 7th grade, won second place in state in Rocks and Minerals in the Science Olympiad, first place in a regional science tournament in Ohio, and a Northern Virginia science tournament. He asked members to bring him minerals they want identified.

Show and tell 25 February 2008

John Boyer, display of minerals received as trades from collectors in Italy, England, Tasmania, Romania, Bulgaria. He said that trading is based on trust. Trade partners want self found minerals from "unique localities" A website is rockhounds.org.

Lois H. Dowell showed higher quality jewelry she found at thrift shops and repaired

Karen Lewis showed higher quality jewelry obtained from thrift shops and gold panned while attending wildacres in North Carolina and Gold Vein, VA.

George Reimherr showed samples of prehnite and apophyllite obtained from employees in 1988 of the Centerville Quarry. He said there were major finds of minerals in 1953, 1967, and 1988.

Jeff Gruber described minerals such as muscovite that he collected at the Old Kensington Mica Mine in Kensington, MD

David Hennesey showed slides of minerals mostly offered for sale in the very expensive "West End" of the February 2008 Tuscon, AZ mineral show.

*Respectfully submitted, David MacLean*

## 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



NVMC Newsletter Editor  
Robert Winsor  
35740 Roundleaf Ct.  
Round Hill, VA 20141

Phone: 540-751-0922  
Please call between 7pm and 9pm  
E-mail: [photech@comcast.net](mailto:photech@comcast.net)



---

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 1<sup>ST</sup>  
OR YOUR NAME WILL  
BE REMOVED FROM  
CLUB  
MEMBERSHIP

You can send your membership renewal to:

Rick Reiber  
2121 Marlboro Dr  
Alexandria, VA 22304