



THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA MINERAL CLUB INC



Crystals are the flowers of the Mineral Kingdom



THE MINERAL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 49 No. 9

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

November Auction

Twice a year our club holds an auction during the meeting. It is a lively time due to the variety of minerals and fossils that show up for sale, and the usually good deals on these minerals that can be found. We try to hold our regular business meeting to a "short and sweet" type of format so that we can spend as much time as possible on the auction. Show up early and plan to leave at 9:50pm. Showing up early gives you a chance to setup your auction goods (if you are planning to sell some items) or to view the neat specimens that others have brought. Don't forget to bring auction bid slips if you are selling, and don't forget to write

down a bid on specimens you want to see go up for sale.

Due to time restrictions, there is seldom time to bring up all items for bidding. So, make sure you write down a bid on a bid slip if you want to see it make it to the floor for bidding: the items with bids on the bid slips are the items that are first brought forward for bidding. If an item has no bids on the bid slip, it may not make it to the floor for bidding.

Please see page 3 for bid slips. Please bring one bid slip for each item you want to have up for auction.

Happy Bidding!

NVMC Schedule:

**Club meeting 24 Nov
7:45pm at LBNC**

22-23 Nov. NVMC Mineral Show, George Mason University, Student Union

24 Nov. NVMC meeting at the LBNC, 7:45pm

11 Dec. NVMC Board Mtg

15 Dec. NVMC annual Holiday meeting at LBNC

Board Nominations

The form and function of the Northern Virginia Mineral Club is determined by its members. One of the best ways to help the club is to become active in club leadership. Serving on the Board of Directors is one method of accomplishing this. True of virtually any club or organization, people are needed to demonstrate a willingness to spend a little extra time to help the club achieve its goals by accepting a leadership role. If you are interested in helping

the club by serving as a Board member, please contact one of the Nominating Committee members to have yourself nominated for a Board office. Alternatively, if you know of someone that you feel would make a good candidate for a Board position, you can nominate that person also. The nominating committee includes Barry Remer, George Reimherr, Jennifer Hammond, and Robert Clemenzi. The nominating committee should report their nominees at the December 15 meeting, so time is ticking! Get your nominations submitted soon!

Renew Your Membership

It is time to renew your membership in the Northern Virginia Mineral Club if you have not already done so. Please send your membership dues to the following address:

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA MINERAL CLUB
PO BOX 9851
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22304**

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The Prez Says

THANKSGIVING & SHARING

November is for Thanksgiving. I'm thankful for:

- a solid core of NVMC club members who regularly come to the monthly meetings.
- 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, which provides leadership, services, and opportunities for those in our hobby.

our 2008 show chairman who enabled the 2008 show, which gave club members a chance to share our hobby with the general public.

those who plan them the numerous very successful collecting field trips we have to participate in.

the program presenters, 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.

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

Wayne Sukow, Prez.

October Meeting Minutes

Recorded by Kathy Hrechka, Secretary

President Wayne Sukow called the meeting to order at 7:55 p.m.

Visitors were welcomed, including Jim Kostka who collects radioactive minerals, and Fran Ely, who enjoys rock tumbling and cabs.

Door prizes were won by Jeff Cessna and Mary Mrose.

Show & Tell:

*Sheryl Sims & daughter Amber Wihshi shared their new acquisitions from the Rockville Quarry.

*George Reimherr displayed his fluorescent willamite from the Buckhill dump.

*Jeff Cessna showed various fluorescent minerals from the Franklin Quarry, including concrete.

*Kathy Hrechka displayed various fluorescent minerals from the Franklin Quarry.

Committee Reports: none

Old business: Tom Taaffe is soliciting volunteers to help at the show on Nov. 21-23. Duties include; shuttle driver, entrance tickets, kids mini mine, security, and silent auction.

Sukow is looking for a volunteer to bring the meat & cheese tray for our club holiday party on Dec. 15. The club will re-

imburse that expense. Side dishes will be provided by last names beginning with A - L. Desserts will be provided by last names beginning with M - Z.

New Business: none

Announcements: Newsletter deadline is Nov. 14.

Nominating committee consists of Barry Remer, George Reimherr, Jennifer Hammond, and Robert Clemenzi. The nominating committee should report their nominees at the December 15 meeting.

Meeting adjourned by 8:25 p.m.

Refreshments were served by our Hospitality Chair, Karen Lewis.

Program: Fluorescent Minerals. Robert Winsor demonstrated the various ways of making short wave UV light sources. He showed a selection of minerals which respond to short wave UV light, and others which respond to long wave UV light. Club members circulated around the room to the various fluorescent mineral displays.

Adjourned by 9:50 p.m.



November Meeting Agenda

Report of Nominating Committee for '09 NVMC Officers...

At the December Meeting Nominations from the Floor Will Be Followed by Elections.

President.....

Vice President...

Secretary.....

Treasurer.....

Editor.....Robert Winsor

CHRISTMAS PARTY...NVMC & MNCA...DECEMBER

15: 2008 ...A CHAIRPERSON IS NEEDED to ORDER AND BRING THE MEAT AND CHEESE TRAY

plus A VEGGIE TRAY.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA:

Call to order at 7:30 pm.

Recognize Guests...

Approval of minutes of October '08 NVMC meeting.

Announcements:

Old Business

New Business

Adjourn for refreshments and begin AUCTION in 15 minutes.

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

Rockin' in Williamsport

By Sheryl Sims

On October 11, my daughter, Amber and I, joined three members from the Maryland club on a field trip to Pinesburg Quarry, a hard rock quarry, in Williamsport, MD. This was our first visit to a quarry!

After spending the Friday before looking for chisels, hammers, and safety wear, we packed up and headed for Williamsport early the next morning. We arrived about 7:15 a.m. and headed to the quarry about 8:00 a.m. after meeting with the quarry manager for a safety talk. It was a beautiful, cool, day and we enjoyed searching the walls of the quarry as well as the many piles rocks lying around everywhere. Since weather-wise, the week had been pretty dry, we were able to drive our cars around the quarry, which proved to be a big help when it came to stashing our finds.



Michael, one of the Maryland club members set off to search for fossils. He found a few snail shells embedded in mud/clay. Most were too fragile to be removed. Tina and Harry (also from the Maryland Club), and Amber and I, found calcite, calcite, and more calcite. According to my mineral book, calcite has the hardness of about a "3". Tina also found a bit of "fools gold". The quarry manager said that, in the past, they have also found geodes, fluorite, smoky quartz, dolomite, and baryte. Unfortunately, we didn't find any. We did find stone sculptures, reminiscent of those seen in the woods of Accokeek, MD, left by Harry.

By 11:00 a.m. we were worn out from trudging around in heavy, steel-toed boots, so we headed home. We had a great first visit to the quarry and look forward to visiting the Rockville Quarry.

Kentucky Fluorite

By Robert Winsor

For the last few years, the Boston Mineral Club has been holding field trips to a now-abandoned fluorite mine in Marion, Kentucky. This year, the trip was held the Columbus Day weekend, and they were nice enough to invite other clubs to join them, including the Northern Virginia Mineral Club. As it turned out, my daughter, Brooke, and I were the only ones to take them up on this offer. Oh how glad we were that we did!

Kentucky - hey, it's a state contiguous with Virginia, so this place can't be *that* far away, right? Well, Marion Kentucky is *clear* over in the western panhandle of the state, just south of Illinois! Actually, this whole region shared by Kentucky, Illinois, and Indiana is famous for its fluorite. There have been some very sizable fluorite mines in the area in the past, and some spectacular museum pieces have been found. In fact, the museum that permits this field trip and provides access to the abandoned mine is the Ben Clement Mineral museum. This museum could almost more accurately be called a fluorite museum because fluorite is the showcase mineral.



Anyway, getting to Marion, KY from northern Virginia is a lengthy 13-14 hour drive. We left on Friday to start the dig on Saturday morning. And dig we did!

We started by looking at some of the old dump piles that had produced some decent 1-cm crystals in the past with color being that of grape candy. It's that purple! But

after finding some pieces that were marginally interesting, we heard some excitement back where a pit was being dug.

Part of the field trip fees for this expedition included \$20 to cover the cost of excavation in an area that the Boston Mineral Club had previously felt produced some decent specimens. Unfortunately, the machine broke down before completing the task, so several of the guys were down there in the mud digging out a pit. At about 2pm, they hit the fluorite vein, and some nice large crystals could be seen. Again, very purple, like grape flavored candy.

I decided to concentrate my efforts on helping with the dig. We setup a bucket brigade to get the mud out of the pit as the pit was right next to a creek bed that was leaking water back into the pit - and bringing mud right back down with it. It was back breaking work, but every minute of it was fun...call me strange. All day long we worked at this. We would get to some fluorite and bring out some very muddy



pieces. Those less willing to work in a back breaking mud pit took the high and dry ground but spent their time cleaning the mud off the specimens we broke free in the pit.

This happened all day, as it did on day 2. At the end of day 2, since there were several people not staying longer, there was a lottery held to distribute the samples. We all pulled numbers and got to make our selection when our number was called. At the end of day 2, Brooke and I had

several wonderful specimens of fluorite, many with significant chunks of galena in matrix (a nice, gleamy sparkly galena - one of my favorite minerals).

The evening of day 2 was a night dig of fluorescent minerals at a nearby mineral dump, freshly turned over for our arrival. This site was less interesting than others, but we found some neat things. Brooke found one specimen that looked like a fossilized leaf. With the surrounding calcite glowing one color and the "leaf" region glowing far less, this was a specimen that looked really neat in SWUV.



This was a very enjoyable trip for Brooke and I, as we enjoyed so much of what Marion, KY had to offer. The mineral museum is a real "gem" (pun intended) in the rough here, and the fried catfish supper (a local specialty) was not to be missed! Now, we have more fluorite than we know what to do with, and so much of it is so beautiful!



17th Annual Gem Mineral & Fossil Show

November 22 - 23, 2008

sponsored by the Northern Virginia
Mineral Club



Show site - George Mason University
Student Union Bldg II

Rte 123 & Braddock Rd, Fairfax, VA

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

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

Demonstrations, Exhibits, Door Prizes

Kid's Activities including 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.

Follow directional signs to designated Mineral Show parking on
GMU campus.

Contact: Tom Taaffe, rockc1lctr @ aol.com

Website: <http://www.mineralclub.org/>

A current list of our 2008 Show Dealers:

Arrowwood Minerals - Richard Ertel - Spotsylvania,
VA

John Ertman - Gems & Minerals - Rockville, MD

Robert Farrar - Minerals & Fossils - Bowie, MD

Geo-Fare - Peter Eldridge - Damascus, MD

Geosol Imports - Rob Evans - Dillsburg, PA

Stephen Hall - Reston, VA

Hartstein Fossils - Gene Hartstein - Newark, DE

Dave Hennessey - Minerals - Woodbridge, VA

Frank Hissong - Minerals - Harrisburg, VA

KBT Minerals & Fossils - Tom Taaffe - Vienna, VA

David Liscomb - Faber, VA

George Loud - Minerals - Alexandria, VA

Bill Mattison - Fluorescents - Gaithersburg, MD

The Mineral House - Tom & Pam Kottyan - Bucyrus,
Ohio

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

Williams Minerals - Keith Williams - Rio, WV

Victorian Gems - Mike Shore - Chapel Hill, NC

Raven Belfer & Jenn Hammond

Wayne Sukow - Fairfax, VA

Tool of the Month

The tool for this month is one that is particularly useful for cleaning the MUD off of specimens. If you have been to a talc mine or any quarry or mine with lots of bentonite or other clay-like mud, then you probably have had too much fun cleaning that mud out of all the little nooks and crannies of your crystalline specimen.

That's where an Ultrasonic cleaner comes in very handy! These devices clean specimens very gently yet at the same time very thoroughly. If a brush can clean your part, so can an ultrasonic, in general. However, an ultrasonic cleaner can reach in the *tiniest little nooks and crannies!*

These cleaners are generally quite expensive, so they



are not for the faint-hearted. Used models can run a couple hundred dollars for a decent-sized container (i.e. 1 gallon size). However, they are a unique type of tool that can accomplish in 10 minutes what might otherwise take hours.

For many rockhounds, perhaps this tool would only come in handy once or twice a year. For this reason, it may be helpful to simply borrow one from a fellow rockhound that already has one.

Yours truly has a 6-liter sized cleaner that performed quite nicely at cleaning out the mud from a couple of buckets filled with mud-laden fluorite. I am willing to loan it to club members. Contact me at my email or phone number (on the back cover of the newsletter) for more information. It's easy to use....

Robert Winsor

Schedule

Upcoming Events to plan for:

22-23 Nov. NVMC Mineral Show, George Mason University, Student Union

24 Nov. NVMC meeting at 7:45pm at LBNC

11 Dec. NVMC Board Mtg

15 Dec. NVMC annual Holiday meeting

26 Jan. NVMC meeting at 7:45pm at LBNC

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

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: Jenn Hammond (703-585-3046)
cherryflamez@yahoo.com

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.

TIME TO RENEW!

Renew your membership in the Northern Virginia Mineral Club!

You can send your Newsletter articles to:

Robert Winsor
35740 Roundleaf Ct.
Round Hill, VA 20141

Or via email: phototech @ comcast.net