



# THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA MINERAL CLUB INC

Crystals are the flowers of the Mineral Kingdom



## THE MINERAL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 50 No. 10

DECEMBER 2009

### Holiday Party

We will have our December Meeting and annual Holiday Party on Monday December 21st at **6:30pm** at Long Branch Nature Center in Arlington. This meeting will be held in coordination with the Micromineralogists Of The National Capital Area. This meeting is a Potluck style party, so please bring your favorite holiday dish.

Sometimes parking can get tight at the Nature Center. Your best option for getting a good parking space is to come early. Arriving early also affords a chance to meet with others prior to the normal meeting, although this meeting should afford plenty of time for interactive discussion amongst friends. Deli sandwiches & beverages will be provided by the MNCA club.

#### **Pictures from the November Show** *Courtesy, Sheryl Sims*



There will also be a gift/sharing/exchange so don't forget to bring a specimen or other hobby related item if you would like to participate.

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

#### **NVMC Schedule:**

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

**25 Jan. General meeting of the NVMC at 7:45pm**

**22 Feb. General meeting of the NVMC at 7:45pm**

**22 Mar. Meeting and NVMC AUCTION at 7:30pm**



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**Reminder!**  
**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:

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

## Nov. Meeting Minutes

*By Wayne Sukow, Acting Secretary*

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 pm by President Sukow.

Several guests introduced themselves.

The minutes of the October 26, 2009 meeting were approved.

Committee Reports included:

President Sukow asked the members present to join him in a rousing round of applause to recognize the work of Tom Taffee, the 2009 NVMC Show Chair, in making the annual show such a great success.

Barry Remer, Nominating Committee Chair reported that a full slate of officers would be presented at the December meeting. Nominees to date are; Barry Remer, President, Rick Reiber, Treasurer and, Kathy Hrechka, Secretary.

President Sukow introduced the two auctioneers for the evening, Colonel Rob Robinson and Colonel Frank Hissong who were given a round of applause.

The Joint Annual CHRISTMAS PARTY of the NVMV and MNCA is scheduled for DECEMBER 21, 2009... Beginning at 7:30 pm.

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.

The business meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. The club auction began. During the auction, refreshments were provided by Karen Lewis.

Program: The mineral and lapidary items up for auction were plentiful and the bidding was spirited. The auction was brought to a conclusion at 9:45 pm by two quite hoarse auctioneers.

## Dec. Meeting Agenda

**21 December 2009**

**CHRISTMAS PARTY...NVMC & MNCA**

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA is shortened due to party.**

**Call to order**

**Approval of minutes of November '09 NVMC meeting.**

**Presentation of 2009 NVMC President's Award**

**Election of officers for 2010. The term of office begins with the January, 2010 meeting on January 24, 2010**

Report of Nominating Committee for '10 NVMC

Officers

President.....Barry Remer

Vice President...Open

Secretary.....Kathy Hrechka

Treasurer.....Rick Reiber

Editor.....Robert Winsor

Call for nominations from the floor.

Call for motion to close nominations and proceed to election motion.

**Adjourn meeting.**

## In the Loupe

*By Sheryl Sims*

**R**ock hunters are often intrigued by the mysteries of the earth. We enjoy digging for what lies beneath, behind, and inside of things. We labor tirelessly as we chip away at rocks older than many of us even dare to imagine. Putting up with inclement weather, rough terrain and heavy boots, we are determined to discover our own piece of the rock.

My own journey took me to a dark, crowded, place surrounded by wild-life and all that nature had to offer.

Not quite sure what I'd find, I carefully chipped away at this and that in my attempt to unearth something "special". Angling myself in some rather unnatural positions, I reached for something solid on which to grab, and reminded myself to "stay safe". The crevices I explored with my fingers were of varying widths. Some appeared to be wide and bottomless. Others were shallow and tight. I could hear other club members laughing and chatting nearby. That was comforting because I knew that if I fell, someone would be there to rescue me.



Suddenly, as if with the bang of a gavel, I knew that the time had come to begin our club meeting. Wrapping my hand around a beautiful find, I shout to myself, "Got it!" Grabbing my find, I carefully backed my way out of the opening.

Yes, relocating boxes, I make my way out of the "NVMC supply closet." Like the Crystal Cave, one can only spend so much time in it before expiring. Wiping beads of sweat off my brow, I gathered the roll of door prize tickets up and handed

them to my daughter, Amber. With relief I said quickly, "Look what I found—and just in time for you to pass them out to everyone!" Examining a tiny scratch on my hand I thought to myself, "Treasure hunting is not without its risks!", nor is finding just the right door prize! However, if there's a way, there's a means of doing just that!

## 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**



*HAPPY HOLIDAYS*

*AND BEST WISHES TO THE NVMC  
FOR A MEMBER PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR*



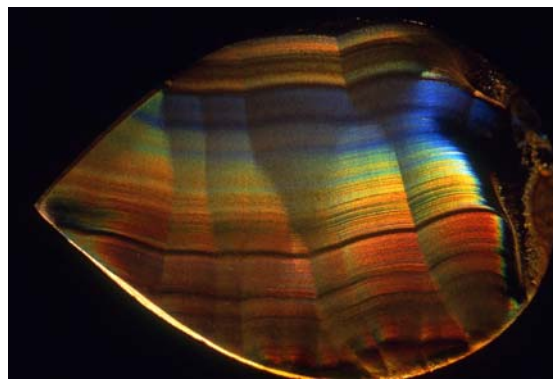
**Copper Country Color**



**A Silver Crystal Ball in Lake Superior Agate**



**Datolite!**



**Iris Agate Cabochon**



**Lake Superior Agate**



**Going Green**

## The Prez Says

### TIME FLIES!

Where did the last three years go? It seems like just last week I agreed to a two year term as NVMC president.

Where did some "more senior" members go? The vitality of the numerous new members is welcomed. It's really fun to come to a mineral club meeting with standing room only! That's happened twice in 2009.

What is it that motivates members to step up and volunteer to lead NVMC activities? If I knew that I'd be the invited speaker at mineral clubs across the nation as it was I did two programs on Lake Superior Agates. Nevertheless, we made progress on that front in 2009.

What can happen if each club member makes a New Year's Resolution to add one or two activities in 2010? Membership would soar and it will continue to be a club you're proud to be a member of.

When did members decide to volunteer to work at our annual show? I hear that our show chairman had some worrisome moments in 2009! Let's hear from you earlier in 2010.

When is the last time you wrote an article for the NVMC newsletter? We have a great editor who would welcome your articles.

How will you share your expertise and passion for minerals and lapidary in 2010? Give your new president your full and early support. Also, why not attend the EFMLS Wildacres mineral and lapidary workshops as well as volunteering to do a presentation at the club. Sign-up early and avoid the rush.

I thank the club officers and others who've helped me lead the NVMC from 2007 to 2010. THANK YOU Kathy, Rick, Jenn, Tom, Robert, John, Barry, Karen and Lois. Special THANKS go to wonderful core of club officers I've had to work with: Rick Reiber, Kathy Hrechka, Barry Remer, the Editor Robert Winsor, and Field Trip Chairman Ted Carver.

And, as I step down as President of the NVMC I hear more of you saying ... "Working for a mineral club is such a delight that I just might...I just might...I just might, and enjoy the delight"

**Wayne Sukow, Prez.**

## More Pictures—November Show

*Courtesy Sheryl Sims*





# Rock of Ages

*By Sheryl E. Sims*

**A**s a child, living in Ft. Lewis, Washington, I discovered a love for rocks and minerals. I didn't know much about either, but I remember spending many hours scouring nearby gardens and wooded paths looking for rose quartz, granite, and petrified wood. My parents even bought me a small bracelet that had samples of various types of rocks such as tiger eye, quartz, topaz, malachite, and agate. I wore it until the stones fell off. Thinking back, while most of what I found were quartz, one of my best finds was a large piece of petrified wood. To my parents' dismay, that large rock made several moves with us and weighed a ton,



costing them quite a bit to move. I finally had to abandon it when they refused to ship it to Bangkok, Thailand. Still, the seed to my love for rocks and minerals was planted. Unfortunately, as time went on, I found myself too busy to continue the pursuits of my hobby. When a friend invited me to go mining with her, a year ago, that interest was rekindled. Now, I seek to ignite a similar spark in my daughter and her friends. This isn't easy. The mere mention of the term "rocks" evokes a sigh or rolling of the eyes from her. I can neither understand nor accept this. Marilyn knew that diamonds were a girl's best friend. Familiar hymnist wrote and sang about the rock of ages. Clearly, there's something to this hobby of mine. Why must I face the possibility of being pummeled each time I

say, "Hey! Tonight's our rock club meeting!"?

Let's face it! The lure of television, Face Book, I-Phones and computers compete for the attention of our young people. Electronics and peer pressure steer them away from the beauty and wonder of being outside—or, of getting dirty as they discovers nature's hidden treasures. When I lift open the trunk of my car, I'm not embarrassed, as my daughter is, by my pretty, yellow, hardhat or mighty sledge hammer. I have no shame in owning steel-toe boots and chisels. No! I see an opportunity to engage passer-bys in a little conversation as they stare unbelievably into the back of my car. After all, their mouths are already hanging open, so why not have a bit of a chat? "I belong to a rock and mineral club!" I proudly announce. "We have a blast!" I continue as my daughter ducks into the car and sticks her earphones in her ears. She's heard it all before and is embarrassed. I'm not! I find that most people are surprised that there are those of us who enjoy rock hunting in the likes of quarries, mines, and riverbeds. Some even say that they want to give it a try! My primary interest, however, is to engage more young people and that's why I asked that information about our club's November rock and mineral show be passed along to all of the science and geology classes in my daughter's school! While this excited me, it appalled her. I think I heard her say something about me ruining her life! I'm not so sure about that, however. What I am sure about is that once the rock and mineral bug has bitten them, they, too, will have great expectations and experiences to share with their friends, classmates, and one day, even their children, just like me!



## USA Science and Engineering Festival

What is the universe made of? Why did dinosaurs go extinct? What do magic tricks and hip-hop have to do with math? What can amphibians and reptiles tell us about the environment? What do engineers have to do with baseball? Find out at the first ever USA Science & Engineering Festival Expo on the National Mall! Explore science & engineering with hundreds of free, hands-on activities and over 40 science shows on three different stages. The two-day Expo is perfect for teens, children and their families, and anyone with a curious mind who is looking for a weekend of fun and discovery. Build an underwater robot, chat with a Nobel Laureate, explore the science behind the magic of Hogwarts Academy and see a car that drives itself. From bugs to birds, kitchen chemistry to computer games, environmental monitoring to electronic music – the Expo has something for everyone and is completely free of charge. The Expo is the pinnacle event of the inaugural USA Science & Engineering Festival to be held in the greater Washington D.C. area October 10-24, 2010. The USA Science & Engineering Festival is a collaboration of over 500 of the nation's leading science and engineering organizations. For more information on all Festival events and how you can get involved, visit [www.usasciencefestival.org](http://www.usasciencefestival.org)



### From the website:

**The Inaugural USA Science & Engineering Festival** will be the country's first national science festival and will descend on the Washington, D.C. area in the Fall of 2010. The Festival promises to be the ultimate multi-cultural, multi-generational and multi-disciplinary celebration of science in the United States. The culmination of the Festival will be a two-day Expo in the nation's capital that will give over 500 science & engineering organizations from all over the United States the opportunity to present themselves with a hands-on, fun science activity to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers.



The Northern Virginia Mineral Club is considering sponsoring a booth at the USA Science and Engineering Festival Exposition. The Festival will be held during two weeks in October, from 10 Oct through 24 Oct. 2010. The Exposition for this event will be held on the National Mall during the 23rd and 24th of October. This does not currently interfere with any planned club-sponsored events.

Wayne Sukow, club President commented, "I think the NVMC should participate with a "booth" or "tent." Given the dates it might serve as the October meeting 2010 of the NVMC and the cost of \$250 for the booth is well within the yearly NVMC budget. I can think of no better way to meet the education goal of NVMC, EFMLS, and AFMS."

This event will be a topic of discussion at this month's meeting.



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E-mail: phototech @ comcast.net



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

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## 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

**Visitors are Always Welcome at our Club Meetings.**

**TIME TO RENEW YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP!**

**SEND YOUR DUES TO:**

**Rick Reiber  
Treasurer, NVMC  
PO Box 9851  
Alexandria, VA 22304**

**OR**

**Bring your dues to the  
meeting**

**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.