

THE CAPITAL ROCKHOUNDER



Publication of the Capital District Mineral Club, Inc.
Chartered by the Education Department of the State of New York
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December 2006

November Program Review

Bruce interviewed long time member Max Fisher on the rocks he got in his many journeys he took in his travels.

Dues are Due

If you look at the label on your newsletter, and the date has passed, you need to renew your membership. Membership dues are \$14 per individual, \$20 per family, and \$5 per student. Please renew by completing a membership form included on our website (address on last page). Send checks, payable to the Capital District Mineral Club, to our post office box (address on last page), or you can renew at our monthly meeting. You will receive your new membership cards (ours and EFMLS) either by mail or at the meeting. Please note that you must have an up-to-date membership card to participate in the December Auction. You may update on site at the dinner. Please note that if you don't sign up by the end of the year, we will stop sending you your newsletter.

Field Trip Report

Stoddard Mine Field Trip Report. Westmoreland, NH. Saturday November 4. Field Trip Leader: J. Richard Hartnett.

Participants (8): Robert Kaufman, Bob Ballard, Bonnie Unser, Art Collins, Jeff Klein, Alex Klein, Jeff Kirk, Richard Hartnett Our field trip began from the Wal-Mart parking lot in Brunswick. Five of us left at about 10:30a m to rendezvous with three members in Wilmington, VT at Dot's Diner. Jeff Kirk had driven from Meriden, CT to join us in Wilmington. Following our rest stop, we briefly got separated, but thankfully came together at the NH line. The weather was perfect-sunny, cool, but not too cold. We passed snow in the upper elevations in VT with about one inch covering the ground in wooded areas. Our luck held up and there was no snow in NH. I should point out that when we started out on the field trip we did not know what to expect in Westmoreland at the collecting site. I had to check with the owner of the field we have always parked in and he said the entrance to the field was blocked due to logging operations there. HE also advised that

we may be excluded from the site if the loggers were working; fortunately they were not there. We parked our vehicles on the Poocham Road and walked to the first collecting area. It was apparent that someone (probably Mike the fireman from Keene, NH) had moved a lot of rocks and dirt, exposing some terrific material. Minerals collected included quartz crystals, purple and green fluorite, malachite, and a red mystery mineral (Bob Ballard thought these specimens might have been exposed to heat from a small campfire that we found - I am not sure as there was no hint of charcoal, soot, or cracking on the specimens). On this trip I found two large specimens with deep purple fluorite, the best I have gotten there after over 10 trips! There were gemmy green fluorite specimens to be found as well as small plates of white and rusty orange quartz crystals. We were joined by members of the Boston Mineral Club who were on a joint field trip to a tourmaline location, elsewhere, and the Stoddard site. Three of their members went up to the big upper site, while two stayed with us. A lady named Barbara knew Richard Stein from our Club having met him in Kentucky on a field trip conducted by the Boston Club (small world). She and her companion were very enjoyable company. At about 3:30pm the weather was turning cloudy and it was getting cold, so we packed up to leave. Jeff Klein came waltzing down the trail with a sizable hickory log slung on his shoulder for son Alex to work on over the cold months to turn into bowls. Everyone voiced their great satisfaction for a successful field trip and we vowed to return in the spring or summer.

Richard Hartnett

Put A Value on Your Mineral and/or Fossil Collection?

For many people this is an easy decision: no. The reasons are many: 1) It takes too much time; 2) I don't know how to put a value on things I found; 3) I only collect for the enjoyment of finding specimens; 4) my collection is small, not worth much; 5) I just got started in the hobby.

Here are some reasons why you may want to rethink your decision not to inventory and assign values to your collection:

- Tax advantages should you donate your specimens or a collection.
- To help your heirs dispose of your collection.
- To help you decide what to sell and for how much if you have to downsize due to a move or other reason (including trading with other collectors).
- For insurance purposes in a casualty loss or if you need a special insurance rider.

Most of us have seen collections sold for ten cents on the dollar. It's heartbreaking and a little discouraging. Often, people have no idea what to ask in a sale and they forget about inflation. If you have had a specimen for ten years and you paid \$7.00 for it in 1996, and you sell it for \$7.00, you've lost money. Perhaps you should have asked nearer to \$14.00.

You need to accept that all of your reasonably good specimens (not gardenite or leaverite) have value and they cost you something even if you found them on a free club trip. A good cost accountant understands this concept. You may have paid for printed labels or specimen boxes to store your treasures. You may have bought tools and equipment to use in collecting your specimens (hammers, pry bars, chisels, hard hats, gloves, mallets, safety glasses, bags, etc.) and you may have spent money on gas, tolls, meals, and wear and tear on your equipment to go on the field trip to collect. Did you buy display cases either new or at a garage sale?

Nothing in life is free, so think about all the time you'll have over the winter months to start on the task of inventorying and valuing your collection. How do you get started? Here are some suggestions:

1) Note when you go to rock shops or geology shows what dealers are asking for similar specimens.

2) If you can get it, there is a book "Standard Mineralogical Catalogue" 8th edition, by E.G. Brazeau and L.S. Brazeau, October 1987, which the author told me is out of print, but there are some people who have them. This little red book of 94 pages lists thousands of mineral values based upon whether the specimen is massive, crystals in a matrix, single crystals, and the size of the crystal(s). You will need to double the values at least once or twice to account for inflation since 1987.

3) Keep a detailed inventory list of all specimens listing the names of the mineral or fossil, the location where it was found, special identifying features (like color), and size (micro mount, thumbnail, cabinet size, etc.). Write down what you paid for the specimen including sales tax. If you found the specimen, put an arbitrary value on it based upon what you have seen in rock shops, shows, on the Internet/Online Auctions, or in journals or magazines.

It's your collection. You don't have to do this. But think about my reasoning. If you are just starting out, start now and the task won't be as daunting in the future.

Richard Hartnett.

President's Farewell

The past two years have been most interesting. I've seen all the club's numbers grow. While our membership has more or less remained the same, there has been an increase in active members at our meetings. Our savings account has never been higher and we have a climb in the number of field trips. As club president it has been great to see such success. It is because of this success I applaud you all! For without the help of our club officers, committees, field trip leaders, our good friend Mike Hawkins and other club members this story would not be the same. I truly thank you for all of your support!

Paul Van Schaick

Nominating Committee

The report from the Nominating Committee will be the only order of business presented at the December 7th meeting. This will be given just prior to the start of the auction. Again this year, Mark Kilmer will preside as auctioneer and assisted by the auction committee, namely Bob Ballard, Gerald Boileau, George Gearhardt and Anne Woods. The names of the candidates for the offices of president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary will be announced but the election will not take place until the first meeting of the 2007 year. As usual, any member at the meeting can nominate any other member for any of the offices as long as they have first obtained permission by the nominated party that if elected they will fulfill the duties of the office.

George Gearhardt

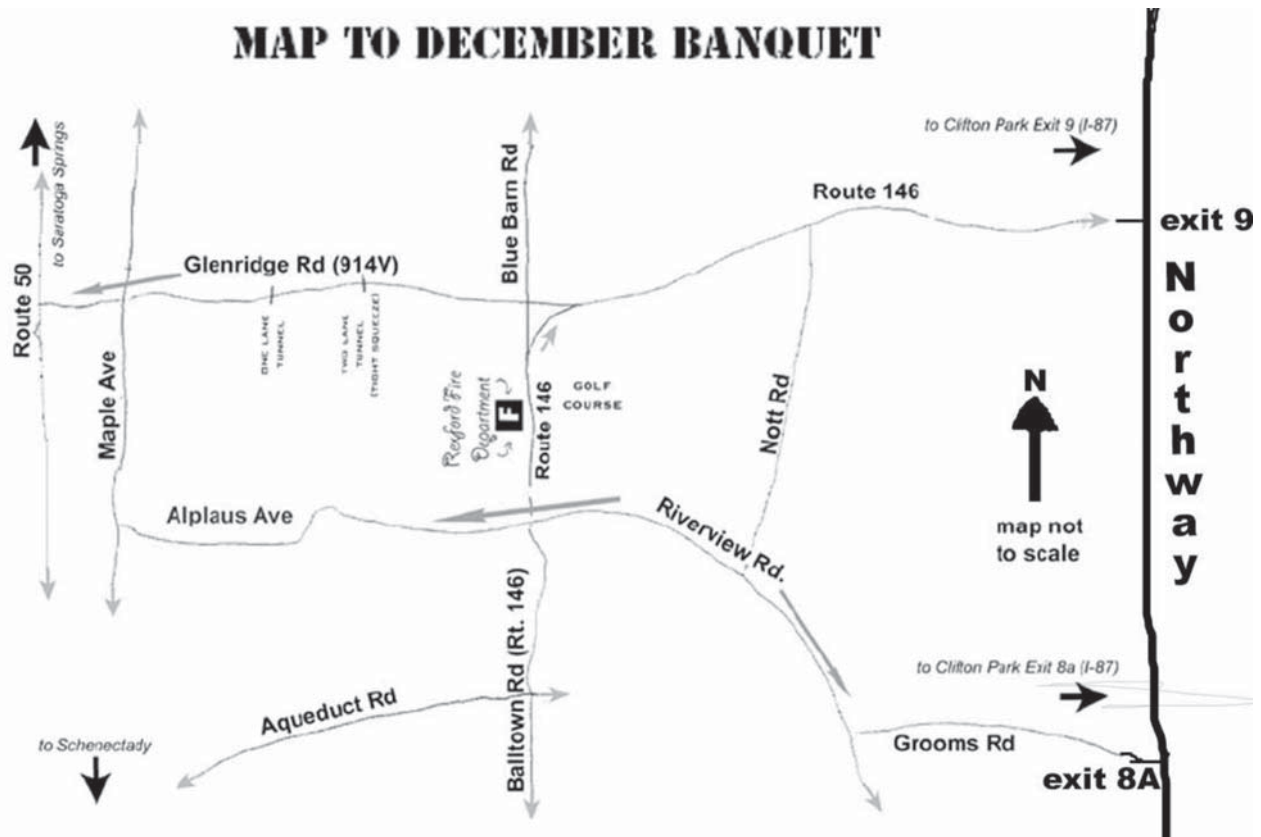
Club Scrapbook Update

Bob Stitham is looking for pictures from this year's field trips, outings, etc...for use in the club scrapbook. Please contact him at gumby59@surferz.net or email them to us at schmanie@albanyrockclub.com.

Lap For Sale

Dear club members, my name is Jeremy Lundy and I was a member a few years ago. I have a 13" cast iron lap for sale and I figured I send the offer your way before putting it on ebay. It's approximately 36" tall and 19" wide. It has a 1/3hp motor and a 1/2 arbor bolt. No abrasives included. I am asking \$200 for it. I live in Glenville and can be reached at this email address. I have attached a picture. Please let me know if anyone is interested. -Jeremy (Contact Jeremy at: jermeylundy@hotmail.com)

MAP TO DECEMBER BANQUET



CAPITAL DISTRICT MINERAL CLUB HOLIDAY BANQUET -- DECEMBER 7, 2006

The **DECEMBER BANQUET** will be held this year at the Rexford Fire Department (1601 Route 146 Rexford, NY 12148). The price of the banquet will be \$12.50 per person. If you plan to attend, you must pay in advance.

MENU: The meal will be a buffet style dinner as follows: 1. Tossed salad; 2. Beef Stroganoff; 3. Chicken and Biscuits; 4. Vegetarian Lasagna; 5. Roasted Potatoes; 6. Mixed Vegetables; 7. Carmel Shortbread/a variety of mixed cookies/bars; and 8. Coffee, Tea.

TIME: Social Hour 6:00 pm; Dinner at 7:00 pm.

AUCTION (auctioneer will be Mark Kilmer): Each member is allowed to bring up to three (3) items to include in the auction. Please know the name of the specimen and the specific location where it was found. We are accepting items having to do with earth science which would include rocks, minerals, fossils, lapidary, books, equipment, etc. The split is 80/20 with 80% of the proceeds going to the seller. Please bring your checkbook or cash. We do not accept credit cards.

PAYMENT: After the entire auction is done, you will be allowed to purchase your item by waiting in line. After you have paid for your item, we will then let you have your specimen. We need to do it this way to avoid total chaos.

GOODIES: There will be door prizes and a goodie at each place setting

GIFT EXCHANGE: And as always (althought not well publicized), we are doing a gift exchange. Bring a gift with a value of about \$5-10 wrapped, and exchange it with someone else who has done the same. Make sure to give them all to Anne Woods upon arrival who will then make sure no one gets their own gift back. She will then make sure everyone gets a new one. All gifts must be collected before any can be returned.

Reservations and check or money order must be received by November 28, 2006

You may call the Gearhardt's at 518-355-0670 or (ggear@atecone.net) or mail your reservations and check to the address below with the following information.

Names _____

Number attending _____ Amount enclosed _____

E-mail for important club updates: _____

Please enclose a check made out to the Capital District Mineral Club and mail to the Capital District Mineral Club, PO Box 12814, Albany, NY 12212-2814

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Website:

<http://www.albanyrockclub.com>

All submissions to the newsletter must be in my hand before the 18th of any given month, or they will be used in the next subsequent newsletter.

The purpose of our club is:

- To promote and encourage the study of mineralogy and other applied sciences.
- To cooperate with educational and scientific institutions in order to bring about a better and more general understanding of earth sciences.
- To provide a program with suitable speakers for scheduled meetings.
- To sponsor, direct, and assist in the planning of excursions to mineral localities and other places of geological interest.
- To cooperate with organizations whose purposes are similar to those stated in the foregoing items.

The Capital Rockhounder and the Capital District Mineral Club are not responsible for the accuracy or authenticity of any information in the articles printed in this newsletter. Nor are the opinions here expressed necessarily those of the officers of the Capital District Mineral Club nor of the Newsletter Staff as a whole.