
The Rockhound's Bark

The Nova Scotia Mineral and Gem Society Newsletter

October 2004



ABOUT THE SOCIETY

Meetings are held the last Saturday of each month, September-November and January-May, 7:30 - 10:00 p.m. in the auditorium (Lower Level) of the N.S. Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer St., Halifax. Dues are \$20/year, payable in January of each year.

2004-2005 EXECUTIVE

President:	Ronnie Van Dommelen
Vice President:	Fred Walsh
Secretary:	vacant
Treasurer:	Terry Collett
Bark Editor:	Ken McKenzie
Librarian:	Doug Bowes

SOCIETY'S MAILING ADDRESS

The Nova Scotia Mineral and Gem Society
c/o NS Museum of Natural History
1747 Summer Street, Halifax, N.S., B3H 3A6

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE

November 18, 2004

NEXT MEETING

October, being in the fall, is a time of beautiful colours in the forests. Of course minerals can be even more colourful. The full rainbow, including red, orange, green, and blue can all be found in the Minerals of the Dunbrack Mine. This old lead mine is host to many interesting microminerals. Ronnie Van Dommelen will give a slide show and talk on this interesting locality.

The mineral theme will be quartz.

FUTURE MEETINGS

For November, we are working on a very special treat for you all. We are in negotiations to have The Amazing Dr. Flame-o appear. Dr. Flame-o has made other guest appearances in Nova Scotia but this will be his first time at the NSMGS. He does an amazing demonstration of fluorescence, with a focus on minerals, but encompassing all of this very cool optical phenomenon.

Martin Eirisch has expressed interest in hearing a talk on Gemstones. If a suitable speaker can be found, this will be one of the programs after Christmas. If you, or someone you know has some knowledge in this area and is willing to prepare a talk, contact an executive member.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

The September 2004 meeting of the NSMGS was held on the 25th of that month. Three people were in attendance. Due to the very low numbers, a formal business meeting was not held. Nonetheless, there was an interesting discussion on what future events might be interesting for the club.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Ronnie Van Dommelen

While this is a month behind schedule, I want to welcome everyone back to the club meetings this fall. Hopefully everyone had an enjoyable and mineralogically productive summer. With any luck the fall will remain mild to allow for a few more collecting trips.

To revitalize the meetings a bit, Terry Collett and I discussed what things people like to do at meetings. The monthly door prizes were always popular, but have been forgotten in recent months. So, for the October meeting there will be some nice material donated for door prizes. If you have a specimen or two that you can donate for future door prizes, these would be much appreciated. Another event that is always popular is an auction. There might be an opportunity later in the meeting-year for such an auction.

Ideas for future programs, from you the club members, are always important. Remember this is your club! If you joined the club to learn about minerals, fossils, lapidary, or geology, tell us what you would like to see for a program. Perhaps you want to learn about a particular locality, what tools you need for collecting, a certain mineral that interests you, fossils, volcanoes, how minerals form, how to maintain a collection, and so on. Come with you ideas in October, I will be collecting them then.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the October meeting!

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

By Ken McKenzie

There hasn't been much club activity in the last few months; hence the lack of newsletters. Things are picking up again, so look forward to bigger Barks in the future. Thanks to Ronnie for proving most of the content for this one.

MINERAL OF THE MONTH

By Ronnie Van Dommelen

The NSMGS has, in the past, had a mineral of the month. Perhaps a few short paragraphs were written about it in the Bark, and people would bring in examples to the club for everyone to look at, enjoy, and discuss. While examples are still welcomed, there will be twist to make things more interesting. Below you will find a quiz. Search for the answers in your mineral books, on the internet, at the library, or in your own gray matter. Bring in your answers written on a piece of paper to the next meeting. The correct answers will be given at the meeting, and those with the correct answers will earn free tickets for the door prizes!

Quartz

1. Purple quartz is most commonly referred to as: grape, amethyst, lavender.
2. Rutilated quartz contains needles of rutile. Rutile is an oxide of what metal?
3. The crystal system of quartz is _____.
4. Quartz can be left or right handed (T/F).
5. Is quartz harder or softer than beryl?
6. Quartz obeys which of the following twin laws: Baveno, Japan, Spinel.
7. A prism of quartz will often have striations (parallel or perpendicular) to the prism axis.
8. Rose quartz crystals are common worldwide (T/F).
9. Which of the following rock type(s) or geologic setting(s) is quartz found in: sedimentary rock, pegmatites, basalt, quartzite.
10. Arkansas is home to Bill Clinton and great quartz specimens (T/F).

Don't forget to bring in some samples of quartz for discussion. If you don't have any specimens, bring in a picture of a nice or interesting specimen. This could be from a book or printed from an internet website.