



Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club



ROCK TALK

NOVEMBER 2025

25 NOVEMBER 2025 at 1900 (7:00 PM)

Meeting at OLD WALDORF SCHOOL

(next to the Waldorf JayCees Hall)

North of the RT 301 / RT 5 Intersection

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

Copper Mining in the US and Copper Minerals by Diane Etherton

Diane has briefed the club before and has educated and entertained us all on her briefing topics. Promises to be another great night.

As a side viewing concerning copper, specifically "Copper Clappers", here is a short video that might (personal opinion, not that of the management) prepare you for the outstanding briefing for this month.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgYbogg1Ha0>

IN THIS EDITION

**Pictorial Recap of the Rock Show
Colorless Mineral and Gem Word Search**

SMRMC MINUTES

Old Waldorf School, Waldorf, MD

Oct. 28, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by President Tim Smith.

VISITORS/NEW MEMBERS: Attending: 28.

Three new members: Brenda, Ruby and Tom Chaillou.

SECRETARY: Rich moved to accept the minutes; Carol seconded. Motion passed/Minutes approved.

TREASURER: Kenny reported on **Rock Show** Expenses and its final cost. He requested that if people have other expenditures associated with the show they should submit them to Kenny or Greta ASAP.

Also the Rock Show Income was discussed and the Club Balance was stated.

SHOW REVIEW: Kenny asked how this year's show compared to previous years? Profit for Club? Vendors' Profit? He said most vendors indicated better sales than last year.

Feedback for the future: food provided by Diane and other members was a plus – vendors appreciated it and it made them feel welcome. Suggestions for future: Signage for bathroom, break room, etc. Utilizing the web was a plus, especially Facebook to publicize the event. He is

interested in how people heard about the show...at the admissions table, maybe put on the door prize slips ‘How did you hear about the show?’ Suggested more signs on busy roads, such as Rt. 228.

Facebook was a great way to publicize the event.

Suggestion: on the coupons, include the question ‘How did you learn about the show?’ He suggested the use of wristbands? and a 50/50 raffle?

Have the show for 2 days? Need electricity for vendors (for their lights.)

In conclusion, Kenny thanked everyone and said success of the event was due to everyone pitching in where needed.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: 102 adults, 23 junior members.

FACEBOOK: 971 members

PROGRAM: November’s meeting will be a ‘show and tell’. Each member brings a rock to talk about, a field trip or interesting rock-hunting story. Dave suggested and Jill agreed to send out an email detailing the procedures before the next meeting. December’s meeting will be the annual potluck and Holiday party.

Carole and Polly provided this evening’s refreshments. Next month, Greta will bring snacks.

WEBSITE: Nothing new to report.

NEWSLETTER: Rich reported that the October newsletter was published last week. Please send items of interest as soon as possible and encouraged members to send him articles of interest and ideas of what

they would like to see in the newsletter as early as possible. He regularly includes details about upcoming rock shows from other clubs.

FIELD TRIP REPORT: David Lines

Reminder: Dues must be paid up to date to attend trips due to insurance rules. He also reminded members to bring their membership cards to each field trip.

Recent Past Field Trips:

Oct 12-13—‘on your own’ Primitive Technology weekend at Willow Grove Nature Center, 2175 Comwell Bridge Rd, Parkville, MD 21234. Hours Sat 10-6 and Sun 10-1:00. Flintknapping, pottery, bows and arrows, blowguns, indigenous cooking, tanning buckskin, wigwams.

Upcoming Field Trips:

Nov. 9-Richmond Swap – on your own. Saturday 9am-3pm. This is a great event, especially for families. This is a SUPER event for all collectors who like Virginia and North Carolina minerals and fossils. You can actually swap rocks and minerals with the dealers. New location: St Paul Lutheran Church, 8100 Shady Grove Road, Mechanicsville, Va. 23111. Admission – Free!

November 29 (tentative) -Petrified wood joint trip with Calvert Marine Museum Fossil Club. (An official trip announcement will be emailed to members after we get a written official invitation.)

November and December TBD: *Short Notice local Fossil Field trips.* Potential lowest tides are on full and new moons: December – new moon Nov. 1; Full moon on 15th. December – new moons on 1st and 30th; Full moon on 15th

***Short Notice local fossil field trips will continue throughout the winter- weather permitting.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS

Dave mention Election of Officers should be coming up soon. (Will check to determine if the offices are for two-term or one-term.)

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS: Lorna read a letter indicating the Eastern Federation will offer Scholarships for 12 students- \$4000 for next year.

ADJOURNMENT: At 8:00 pm, Dave moved to adjourn. Jill seconded and the business meeting was adjourned.

After refreshments (thanks Carole and Polly) and door prize drawing (thanks Dave), Bob Farrar presented a brief on his time in Maine collecting.

2026 Programs / Refreshments

Volunteers and topics are *desperately* needed to expand all members knowledge in various related topics. Having outside speakers is a great addition to our meetings, so if anyone knows someone that would speak on a relatable topic - **PLEASE** contact Jill. She will appreciate **ANY** and **ALL** leads. Always, members speaking on their adventures/knowledge is ALWAYS enlightening to the members and visitors.

Refreshment volunteers are usually easier for many to accomplish. But Jill still needs to fill the calendar quickly to ensure the meeting attendees stomachs do not growl during the programs.

Please contact Jill (or her replacement) with any assistance you desire to extend!



Renee with an older find at Ron Coleman's in Jessieville, AR. (Too large for a Ring)



Ralph working in the fresh mud tailings

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2025 PROGRAMS/REFRESHMENTS SCHEDULE

MONTH	PROGRAM	REFRESHMENTS
25 NOV 2025	Copper Mining in the US and Copper Minerals By Diane Etherton	Diane
16 DEC 2025	HOLIDAY PARTY	POT LUCK

**For Best information on forecasted Tide Levels
from Dave Lines**

Recommend you keep checking the “water levels” on the NOAA website <https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/stationhome.html?id=8577330> so you can choose the best location to look for fossils. The water levels at Solomons Island will be similar to the those on the Bay. Purse/Potomac River is 4 hours later. **HAPPY HUNTING.**



CALENDAR OF EVENTS/ ODDS AND ENDS

NOVEMBER 22-23 FAIRFAX, VA

33rd Annual Gem Mineral and Fossil Show
Presented by the Northern Virginia Mineral Club *Sponsored by the Dept of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences at GMU* Dates: Saturday, Nov 22 – 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, Nov 23 – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Johnson Center at the George Mason University Campus, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 Admission: Adults \$6, Seniors (65+) \$4, Teens (13-17) \$3, Children 12 and under accompanied by an adult are FREE — Scouts in Uniform are FREE — GMU Students, Faculty & Staff are FREE w/valid ID. Approximately 20 dealers with Gems, Minerals & Fossils for sale. Features: Demonstrations, Exhibits, Kids Activities and Door Prizes, Silent Auction on Sunday Use Parking Lot A, enter Lot A, which is adjacent to the Johnson Center. Look for our Courtesy Shuttle & Designated Walking Path to the Mineral Show.

GPS:

<https://novamineralclub.org/showparking>
(takes you to GMU's Lot A).

Show Website:

<https://www.novamineralclub.org/events/2025-show>

NOVEMBER 28 - 30 - ROANOKE, VA.

Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Society Show. Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Society. Salem Civic Center; 1001 Roanoke Boulevard, Salem, VA 24153. Fri -2:00 - 6:00; Sat - 10:00 - 6:00; Sun - 11:00 - 4:00

Website: <https://www.rvmgs.org/>

NEWS STORIES WITH POSSIBLE INTEREST

10 Incredible Diamond Discoveries That Shook the World

<https://www.naturaldiamonds.com/science-of-diamonds/botswana-diamond-discoveries/>

A Diamond Found in Botswana May Be the Rarest of Its Kind Found to Date

<https://www.zmescience.com/science/geology/a-diamond-found-in-botswana-may-be-the-rarest-of-its-kind-found-to-date/>

New diamond source discovered in Africa by the De Beers Group

<https://www.earth.com/news/new-diamond-source-discovered-in-africa-by-the-de-beers-group/>

The Florentine Diamond Resurfaces After 100 Years in Hiding

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/11/06/arts/design/florentine-diamond-resurfaces-hapsburg.html>

The Quantum Secret Inside Lab-Grown Diamonds

<https://scitechdaily.com/the-quantum-secret-inside-lab-grown-diamonds/>

Lab-Grown Diamonds Just Got Smarter: Now They Can Store Your Bitcoin Value

<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/lab-grown-diamonds-just-got-161605679.html>

Purple Diamonds: Nature's Most Fascinating Masterpieces

<https://www.naturaldiamonds.com/science-of-diamonds/purple-diamonds/>

Africa's diamond powerhouses, Angola and Botswana are in talks to take over the world's biggest mining brand

<https://africa.businessinsider.com/local/markets/africas-diamond-powerhouses-angola-and-botswana-are-in-talks-to-take-over-the-worlds/sjcxw0s>

Geologists discover new clues about natural green diamond mine

<https://www.earth.com/news/geologists-discover-new-clues-about-rare-natural-green-diamond-mine/>

10.08-Carat 'Glowing Rose' Pink Diamond Pulled From Sotheby's Auction

<https://apple.news/AcqDcZ4RRQ52PLzXoch4GTA>

Unique Pink And Clear Diamond Unearthed In Botswana

<https://www.dogonews.com/2025/11/17/unique-pink-and-clear-diamond-unearthed-in-botswana>

Tourist from New York finds a diamond the size of a human tooth

<https://www.earth.com/news/tourist-from-new-york-finds-a-diamond-stone-the-size-of-a-human-tooth/>

Recreational topographic USGS maps are now free to download

<https://www.earth.com/news/recreational-usgs-topographic-maps-available-build-and-download-for-free/>

Scientists Unearthed a Dinosaur So Heavy and So Big, It Cracked the Road

<https://dailygalaxy.com/2025/10/dinosaur-fossil-massive-cracked-the-road/>

A New USGS Map Lets You See the Layers of Rock and Sediment Hidden Directly Beneath Your Feet

<https://dailygalaxy.com/2025/10/a-new-usgs-map-lets-you-see-the-layers-of-rock-and-sediment-hidden-directly-beneath-your-feet/>

They were drilling off Oregon. What they found could shake all of California

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2025/10/251022023130.htm>

Evanston Man Finds Mysterious Foot Bones In Prehistoric Soil Near Kemmerer

<https://cowboystatedaily.com/2025/09/27/evanston-lawyer-finds-foot-near-kemmerer-fantastic-fossil-or-modern-mismatch/>

'Very rare' 84-million-year-old dinosaur tooth found in Alabama creek

<https://www.al.com/news/2025/08/very-rare-84-million-year-old-dinosaur-tooth-found-in-alabama-creek.html>

New vein system discovered contains huge amounts of gold and silver per ton

<https://www.earth.com/news/new-vein-system-discovered-contains-huge-amounts-of-gold-and-silver-per-ton/>

Ammolite Gemstone: New Study Pinpoints What Makes These Rare Fossilized Ammonites So Vibrant

<https://www.iflscience.com/what-makes-ammolite-gemstones-a-rare-kind-of-fossilized-ammonite-so-vibrant-its-all-in-the-nacre-81383>

Gov. Stein hails biggest dinosaur find in Raleigh museum | Raleigh News & Observer

<https://www.newsobserver.com/news/politics-government/article312694489.html>

Lichens Love Growing On 75-Million-Year-Old Dinosaur Remains And Could Speed Up Finding Fossils

<https://www.iflscience.com/how-to-find-fossils-these-bright-orange-organisms-love-growing-on-exposed-dinosaur-bones-81429>

It's official - USGS launches interactive map that lets you explore the subway geology of the entire United States

<https://unionrayo.com/en/usgs-map-subway-geology/>

Jane the dinosaur may not be a juvenile T. Rex, but a new species

<https://www.mystateline.com/news/local-news/jane-the-dinosaur-may-not-be-a-juvenile-t-rex-but-a-new-species/>

New silver, gold, and copper deposit discovery announced

<https://www.earth.com/news/new-silver-gold-and-copper-deposit-discovery-announced/>

Ant fossil found is so rare they compare it to finding a diamond

<https://www.earth.com/news/ant-fossil-basiceros-enana-is-so-rare-that-scientists-compare-it-to-finding-diamond/>

The world is overly reliant on one US-located mine for critical chipmaking material, but China is working to break the stranglehold — China investing over \$14 million in synthetic quartz manufacturing to diversify away from US dependency

<https://www.tomshardware.com/tech-industry/the-world-is-overly-reliant-on-one-us-located-mine-for-critical-chipmaking-material-but-china-is-working-to-break-the-stranglehold-china-investing-over-usd14-million-in-synthetic-quartz-manufacturing-to-diversify-away-from-us-dependency>

Iconic golf ball-sized Florentine diamond once owned by Medici and Habsburg dynasties is FOUND in unusual location 100 years after 'vanishing

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15265437/florentine-diamond-habsburg-medici-location.html>

India Is Most Promising Market for Lab-Grown Diamonds

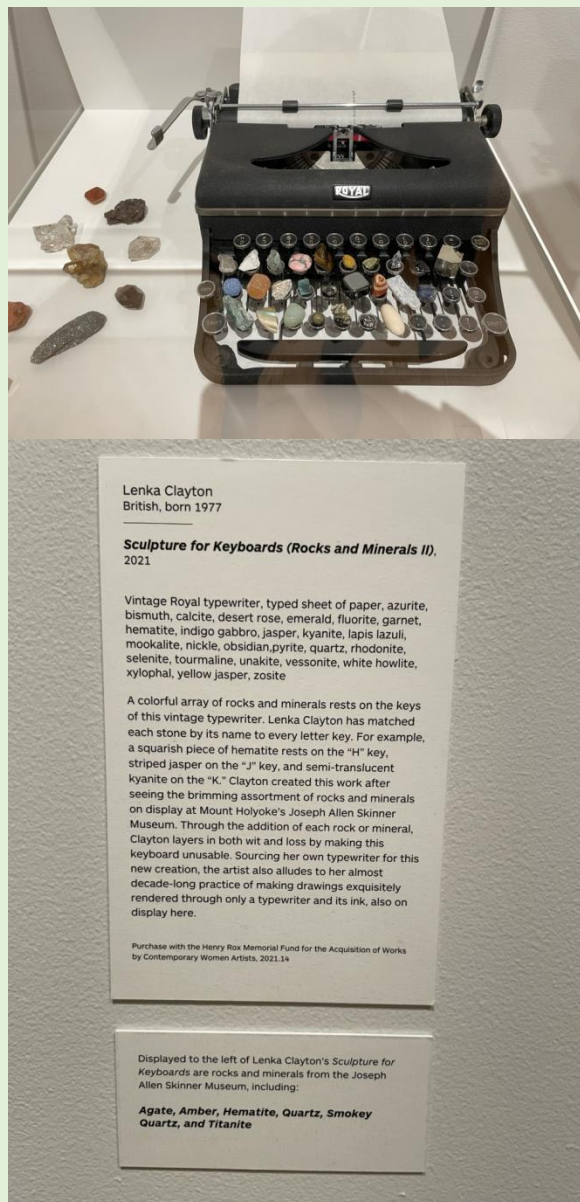
<https://rapaport.com/news/india-is-most-promising-market-for-lab-grown-diamonds-titan/>

Giant, duck-billed dinosaur discovered in New Mexico

<https://www.earth.com/news/nine-ton-giant-dinosaur-with-duck-like-face-discovered-in-new-mexico/>

NASA rover spots something on Mars that doesn't belong there

<https://apple.news/AKH24PPHGtBe-YeoQlaVz5w>



Mike examining his finds from the mud



Display at the Arkansas Welcome Center on I-70

This is a novel use of rocks that is on display at the Joseph Allen Skinner Museum in South Hadley Massachusetts. Below is the picture of the typewriter that the sign above refers to. If you choose to use this in the newsletter, you are welcome to.

Contributed by Sandy Lyon

**2025 SMRMC Show
4 OCTOBER 2025
OLD WALDORF SCHOOL**

We all have heard from Kenny about the success of the show and comments from attendees, members, and sellers. The following pictures were taken by James P. Roddy. He has given the club a beautiful 65 page pictorial of the show. No, I am not placing ALL the outstanding photos in the newsletter, but a sufficient number to show the beauty of the show. The file "should" be on the club's website for its full viewing.

Gary and Cindy's Fluorescent Tent Show



The next few pages show the large numbers of people that enjoyed the show and were able to view , talk, question and purchase many specimens and finely made jewelry available.

We had minimal duplication of seller's material which made the show one that keeps the attendee's interest throughout the room.

Each seller donated an interesting item for a door prize which assisted in "keeping" many in the building a little longer to see if they would be "lucky". All door prizes donations were truly appreciated and loved by those people lucky enough to be selected!!











COLORLESS MINERALS AND GEMS - NOVEMBER 2025

By Rich Simcsak

C A S S I T E R I T E V E N T
 E A G L E N I R A M A U Q A H
 R P L O A C H R O I T E F E O
 U O U C S T U S P I N E L T W
 S P E E I H E L I N U S O I L
 S H T A T T E R E E U P U R I
 I Y I L R I E N I X A Q R U T
 T L S B E I N T I H I S I B E
 E I E I X E D E I T P T T N T
 T T L T D N T U L K E P E A I
 Y E G E O I T A L E A D A D L
 R N N M L S O A P R S N O S A
 A D A O A P P L E L Y R E B T
 B I I S O S A D A M I T E H E
 D Q U A R T Z I R C O N I C P

These are some of the gems and minerals that are colorless or have a variation of being colorless.

ACHROITE (TOURMALINE)
 ADAMITE
 ALBITE
 ANGLESITE
 APOPHYLITE
 AQUAMARINE
 BARYTE
 BERYL
 CALCITE

CASSITERITE
 CERUSSITE
 DANBURITE
 DIAMOND
 FLOURITE
 GOSHENITE
 HOWLITE
 IOLITE
 PETALITE

PHENAKITE
 QUARTZ
 SAPPHIRE
 SELENITE
 SPINEL
 TOPAZ
 ULEXITE
 ZIRCON



The Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club

Meetings take place on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm

Held at the OLD WALDORF SCHOOL

Next to the Waldorf JayCees Hall

3074 Crain Highway, Waldorf, MD 20601

North of the RT 301 / RT 5 intersection

We're on the web: SMRMC.ORG

Also on FACEBOOK: Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club

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Rich Simcsak

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ITEMS WANTED/FOR SALE

Nothing at this time.....

We all realize we have a little too much of a good thing and must share those items with others - but at a cost.

If any member wants to sell material to other club members, they can request to post it here for other club members to evaluate if they really need it for their collection / needs..

Contact the ROCK TALK Editor for advertising space!!