



ROCK PICKENS

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY ROCK & MINERAL CLUB Date: May 2015

May 2015

Next meeting is Wed., May 6th at the Canton Library, 6:00 PM. Subs will be supplied by the club, you only need to bring a drink. We may be meeting upstairs in the library. **Dave Millis will be giving a presentation and bringing up a hand crafted, muscovite-winged, dragonfly to be presented to the Gouverneur Museum.**



Schuyler "Sky" Alverson
10/03/1923 - 04/19/2015

Memories of Sky Alverson

A good friend and mineral collector, Schuyler Alverson, will be greatly missed in my life. I knew Sky for a little over 50 years, having met him in September, 1964, when I first joined the St. Lawrence County Rock and Mineral Club as a Freshman student at SUNY Potsdam. Sky had a far greater knowledge and familiarity with the local minerals and their localities than anyone else I know, and sharing a common passion for minerals, we quickly became good friends. Over the years we made many collecting trips together, often with a mutual friend, Bob Dow. Frequently, these trips turned into rip-roaring adventures, and covered a sizeable area from Bancroft, Ontario, and Otter Lake, Quebec, to the north, Moat Mountain, New Hampshire to the east and the Herkimer diamond localities along the Mohawk Valley to the south. Many of our excursions, however, were much closer to home and included many of the classic localities for which our area is renowned: diopside from DeKalb, galena and calcite from Rossie, tourmalines from Gouverneur and Pierrepont, millerite from the Sterling mine, fluorite from Benson Mines, and many others. A devoted collector, through and through, all Sky needed to keep him going during the day was his coffee and licorice gummies. We'd dig crystals until dusk and even after dark by the light of a Coleman lantern. So many times we would come home late,

President: William deLorraine

Vice President: Scott Sutherland

Secretary: Joanna deLorraine

Treasurer: Chris Sutherland

Show Chairperson: Bob Taillon

Advertising: Heather O'Hara

Newsletter Editor: Bill deLorraine

Webmaster: Glenn Simonelli - Andy Sutherland

2015 Membership Dues from August 2014 to August 2015

Please make sure we have your current e-mail address!

We strive to send all newsletters by e-mail

**Please mail dues to: Chris Sutherland; Treasurer,
287 Cty. Rd. 29, Canton, NY 13617**

Single Membership: \$10.00. Family Membership: (Family members under the same roof at the same mailing address): \$20.00

contact information:

**315-287-4652 or
wdellie@gmail.com**

THE CLUB'S WEBSITE:

www.stLawrencecountymineralclub.org



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dirty and hungry, but elated with the day's finds, and anxious to wash them up the next day to see what "treasures" worthy of our collections might be hiding among them. Occasionally a *real treasure* would show up: now in the collection of the New York State Museum where we and future generations of mineral collectors can see and admire it, is what is probably the world's finest specimen of crystallized graphite that Sky collected at Lieb's Moonstone Mine near Saranac Lake.

We stayed in contact through the years when I lived in Canada, and later in Michigan, and had often talked about doing more collecting together, although we never made firm plans. Today, I wish we had firmed up those plans and gotten together more often. I will miss my old friend and collecting partner very much, as will all who knew him.

George Robinson

I miss Sky already, and he's only been gone a few days.

It was almost 25 years ago that my Son Andy, had a school field trip to Powers Farm and became interested in rocks and minerals. That was fine with me, as I grew up right next to what was then the largest open pit iron ore mine in the world near Star Lake. As we explored our new hobby together, it quickly became apparent that we needed more information and places to collect.

We went to the Rock and Mineral show being held in Pierrepont at that time, where we saw the show and asked many questions of who ever would entertain our numerous questions. That's where we first met a man with the curious name of "Sky".

Sky made time for all our questions, even though some were very basic and maybe bordered on "dumb". Sky always made the answers exciting with mineral examples and stories of collecting.

We didn't know it then, but we were being taught by one of the best teachers one may ever know.

Sky got us to join the Club with his fun loving upbeat personality, where we knew him as "President Sky" for many years.

We had the privilege to collect from maps drawn by Sky's own hand. Later we got to go on trips and collect with Sky. Sky would carry a large pack basket filled with tools, even into his eighties. One of the best things about every trip, were the stories Sky would tell about collecting in the 60's and 70's with good friends and partners Bob Dow and George Robinson. He made us wish that we could have been there; camping, fishing for dinner, and digging and collecting at night by Coleman lantern.

Later, Sky would sometimes invite me along when Mike Hawkins came up from Albany, and Sky would take us around the County pointing out areas of interest layered with more interesting stories.

One thing these trips would always entail was Mike buying lunch, and of course pie for dessert. I listened carefully, and wouldn't trade those times for any others. Sky was a super teacher and mentor, a skilled prospector and collector, a decorated WWII Veteran, and a friend. But as I look back, what I really learned most, was that Sky was the man we wish we all could become.

Scott Sutherland

OPEN HOUSE:

Sat. May 2nd - Penfield Quarry - Open House
746 Whalen Rd. in Penfield 6:30 - noon
(details on page 4)

Upcoming Shows

May 23 & 24 - BENNINGTON, VT: Sat. 10-5,
Sun. 10-4 Adults \$5.00
Grace Christian School, 104 Kocher Driver,
Bennington VT Contact Bill Cotrofeld 802-375-
6782. Admission free to St. Lawrence Co. Club



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June 6-7, 2015

Wayne Co. Gem & Mineral Show (Gem Fest)
Sat. June 6th 10-5 Sunday 10-4
Greater Canandaigua Civic Ctr. Canandaigua, NY

June 6-7, 2015

Orange County Mineral Show
1010 Route 17M Monroe, NY 10950
www.orangecountymineralsocietynewyork.com

July 11-12, 2015

Gemworld- Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse,
NY Onondaga Community College SRC Arena
4585 W. Seneca Turnpike, Syr. NY 13212

July 18-19, 2015

1st Annual Herkimer Diamond Festival & Gem Show
127 N. Prospect St. Herkimer, NY - Myer's Park
Herkimer, NY Facebook page is:
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Herkimers-Diamond-Festival-Gem-Show/1389083001398174>
more information to come.

August 7-9, 2015

East Coast Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, West
Springfield, MA 10-6. Friday, 10-5 Sat. \$6..00
Adults Better Living Ctr. 1305 Memorial Ave. W.
Springfield, MA 01089

August 22-23, 2015

St. Lawrence Co. Rock & Mineral Club Show
49th annual show in Madrid, NY @ Community
Ctr., 1835 St. Hwy 345, Madrid, NY 13660. Free
admission, free mineral kits for kids, free gem tree
classes. Florescent mineral hunt for kids Friday,
21st, at dusk. Hrs. Sat. 9-4, Sunday 9-3.

September 19-20, 2015

Mid Hudson Valley Gem & Mineral Show
Gold's Gym 258 Titusville Rd. Poughkeepsie, NY

October 17-18, 2015

Bristol Gem and Mineral Club Show
Beals Community Ctr. 240 Stafford Ave. Bristol,
CT www.Bristolgem.org



Skyler and Bruno at 2009 Show receiving lifetime member award.

Next Meetings' Agenda

- **Upcoming field trips**
- **Advertising for the show**
- **Summer picnic ?**
- **Volunteers for field trip coordinator**
- **Dave Millis' presentation**
- **J-reck Subs supplied by the club**



Skyler and Fern Alverson @ "The Show"



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(next meeting, Wed, May 6th)
6 PM

Program by Dr. David Millis

CRYSTAL SYSTEMS

We will start with some examples of crystal systems and crystal shapes for common minerals. Then describe by analogy how they are measured (non-technical). Talk about the missing system and go through other unusual differences between crystal systems and crystal shapes/habits. Throughout the talk, I will ask questions where you may win a mineral specimen with a correct answer.

Upcoming Field Trips

This note just in from Dave Millis:

JULY FIELD TRIP TO BANCROFT, ONTARIO

The first collecting day is the 15th. Most popular sites are, Bear Lake and Schikler for Apatite, calcite and Fluorite; Beryl pit for Tourmaline, Amazonite and beryl crystals; Miller site and the and the Fluororichterite road cut. The sites will be picked by consensus except Thursday will be Schikler, and Friday is a day you can go off on your own. Field trips start at 8 o'clock at Bancroft campground (613-332-3673); you do not have to camp there. Field trips end Sunday; I am staying until Wednesday AM.

Crossing the border into Canada is easy -- avoid the "5 Fires": Firewater, Firesticks, Firearms,

Fireworks, and Firecrackers. Crossing back is harder. Again, avoid the 5 Fires! Bring your passport or enhanced drivers' license. Your rocks must be free of soil that may contain biologics, maximum purchases duty-free after a 48-hr visit is \$400 US per person per car. Taking pets along is a bad idea. If you do, a current rabies vaccine certificate is required both ways. The best currency exchange rates are with a credit card but you will need some cash.

This note just in from Rob and Sarah Bancroft:

Just wanted to let the club know that Rob and I will be going to the Bancroft area July 25 - August 2 to attend the local gem show and the Gemboree.

We will also be collecting at the Beryl Pit, Craigmont, Miller Farm, Bear Lake Digs, and more. If anyone would like to join us for all or even part of this time they would be welcomed.

(contact Bill & Joanna)

OPEN HOUSE:

Sat. May 2, 2015: Dolomite Products Quarry, Penfield, NY has been confirmed. 746 Whalen Rd., Penfield, NY. Arrive between 6:30 and 6:45 AM for safety talk, dig from 7:00 AM to noon. Hard hats, steel toed shoes, safety glasses required. Supervised children are permitted. Gas powered equipment is allowed. Expect to find Calcite, Dolomite, Selenite, Fluorite, Sphalerite.



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**Schuyler Alverson, "Auctioneer
Extraordinaire" AKA "The Mad Hatter"
in action!**

"Do I Have 50? 50 where? I have 50!"



SOLD!

