



Rhode Island Mineral Hunters
A 501 (c) (3) HP Organization

BOWEN-LITE

WWW.RIMH.US



CUMBERLANDITE –OFFICIAL STATE ROCK



BOWENITE – OFFICIAL STATE MINERAL

Volume 54 Issue 1

January 2016

RIMH 2016

Congratulations !

A new year and a new group of club officers. The club has experienced growth and prosperity with the tireless work of the outgoing administration and it will continue with the new officers and board members

Elections were held at the Christmas Party
Congratulations to the new officers. 2016

Congratulations to President

Bill Wilson

Vice President

Sherri Blannerhasset

Secretary

Chris Tremblay

Treasurer

Dante Caprara

2016

New Board Members

Steve Emma

Don Fail – Show Person

Jim Brenek

Rachel Cesana

Lou Fazzina

Leo Doucet – Membership Person

Bill Neal

Buck Leach

HAPPY NEW YEAR



A special thanks to the outgoing officers and board members. Your hard work and dedication to the organization is greatly appreciated . 2015

Steve Emma - President Chris Tremblay -Secretary
Buck Leach -Vice President Dante Caprara -Treasurer
EXECUTIVE BOARD with above officers

Louise Barbish, Tom Barbish, James Brenek, Rachel
Cesana, Jen Davis, Don Fail, Joel Russo, Bill Wilson
DEPARTMENTS / COMMITTEES

Historian: Bill Wilson

Membership: *Leo Doucet

Field Trip Coordinator: Joel Russo

Show Chairman: Don Fail

Librarian: Bill Neal

Editor: Bruce Luscombe, bdluscombe@msn.com

Webmaster: Bruce Hecker, bbhecker@cox.net

A Letter from outgoing President Steve Emma

RIMH Christmas Letter

Season's Greetings and Happy New Year!

It has been a great experience being the President of RIMH. I know I leave the position with the club in great shape.

I have seen it grow from 50 members to over 250 members. The attendance at general meetings has been phenomenal and the new members we have attracted have given the club a new impetus. I love seeing youngsters at our meetings and field trips. They certainly enliven all our clubs endeavors and bring joy to my heart.

Aside from all this I really would like to thank all those members who have contributed to our success, those volunteers both on and off the board who have done all those things above and beyond the status quo.

As our budget shows (thanks Dante) we have generated enough funds to be quite solvent and are able to cover all our expenses plus. It is nice to not have to worry so much about money to run the club. For those who have participated in field trips, you and I know what a great job our field trip coordinator Joel has done. I have enjoyed going on these digs immensely and have learned more about minerals and fossils than I thought possible. Our behind the scene membership person, Leo Doucet, has been right on the ball keeping that aspect of the club in order and running smoothly. Chris our secretary has been steadfast, taking notes at meetings and getting out the minutes so everyone gets to know what the board is up to. Everyone doing more than what they are supposed to do makes things much better.

I would like to thank Don Fail, show coordinator, for absolutely flat out doing a terrific job with the show. He did everything to see that all our vendors were happy. I know what a headache getting the contracts out and dealing with all the vendors can be. I hardly did anything other than checking in with him once in a while. Thanks Donny.

I know that 2016's show will be even better than this year's show.

I am certain that the new President, Bill Wilson, will carry on the duties of the President admirably and I am looking forward to working with him and the others on the board to see that RIMH continues to move confidently into the future.

Most importantly I have made friends with sincere people that I never would have met if it wasn't for the club. Of all the club has given me, for this I am the most grateful.

Happy New Year

Sincerely,

Steve Emma

Upcoming Meeting Details

There are no general meetings in January or February. They start in March.
I'll give you the dates when I get confirmation from CCRI.

There will be executive meetings in January and February though.

Executive Meeting dates for January and March are:

Tuesday January 5th

Tuesday February 2nd.

All meetings start at 7pm.

This year The meetings will be held at Lou Fazzinas' rock shop (Apple Valley Minerals)
7 Homestead Avenue
Smith field, RI 02917

*Homestead is off Farnum Pike.

Christmas Party Prizes

The Christmas party was a great success. We had over 70 people there with lots of new members and kids.

If I remember correctly, awards for specimens and who did the most for the club went to Jim Brenek, Steve Emma, and Dante Caprara.

Prizes for most advertisers and sponsors went to Steve Emma, and Sherri Blannerhasset (our new VP).

There was plenty of good food and everyone appeared to be pleased with their Christmas gifts.

*If anyone has any pictures, information or notices, please let me know and I will include them in the next newsletter.

Written and edited by Paul Koczwanski

Email pakman844@aol.com

Gemstone of the Month



Rough



Finished

Garnet, the January birthstone, derived its name from the Latin word granatus, meaning like a grain, which refers to the mode of occurrence wherein crystals resemble grains or seeds embedded in the matrix. Garnet is a family of minerals having similar physical and crystalline properties. They all have the same general chemical formula, $A_3B_2(SiO_4)_3$, where A can be calcium, magnesium, ferrous iron, or manganese, and B can be aluminum, ferric iron, or chromium, or in rare instances, titanium.

Closest Source

Connecticut.--Garnet in mica schist near Roxbury and Roxbury Falls in Litchfield County was once mined, although not recently, for use in abrasive applications and for mineral specimens. The andradite garnet was found as well-formed dodecahedral crystals that separate easily from the host schist.

See USGS.gov for further info

Spinosaurus

Fossil of the Month



Spinosaurus Tooth



The biggest and the baddest among meat-eating dinosaurs, *Spinosaurus* may have also been the first dinosaur to take to the water, swimming in North Africa's rivers some 97 million years ago. Floating like a crocodile to stalk prey, the 50-foot-long (15.2 meters) predator bore a massive sail on its back that would have risen from the water like a shark's fin. The carnivore probably ate fish, ancient crocodiles, and anything else afloat. "It was the biggest carnivorous dinosaur, but *Spinosaurus* wasn't a land animal," says University of Chicago paleontologist [Nizar Ibrahim](#), a National Geographic Society [Emerging Explorer](#) who led the discovery of the new fossils. "This was a creature adapted to life in the water." Up to then, dinosaurs had ruled only the land. After 150 million years of dinosaur evolution, "suddenly we see these adaptations in *Spinosaurus* where it is able to swim," says University of Chicago paleontologist [Paul Sereno](#), a co-author of [Thursday's report in the journal Science](#) describing new fossils that reveal how the fearsome ancient predator lived. (Read "[Mr. Big](#)" in *National Geographic* magazine.) The fossil bones of *Spinosaurus aegyptiacus* described in the study turned up in sandstone beds in the Moroccan Sahara. Complete with skull, claws, and bones that formed the sail on its back, the fossils reveal a crocodilian snout, paddle-like feet, and dense bones that aided buoyancy, adding up to a life aquatic for the giant predator. "All in all, the discoveries by this team show that *Spinosaurus* is an extremely unusual and specialized carnivorous dinosaur," says dinosaur expert [Thomas Holtz](#) of the University of Maryland in College Park, who was not part of the discovery team. The fossil finds are also featured in the October *National Geographic* magazine, and will appear in a National Geographic/NOVA special on PBS in November. "*Spinosaurus* has almost no 'junk in the trunk,'" Holtz says, noting its narrow hips and short thighs. "This doesn't make much sense for a land animal that makes a living chasing other land animals. But if it is an animal that doesn't spend most of its time on land, but instead in the water, it doesn't need strong leg muscles."*

*See National Geographic magazine for further reference

