

# SE Massachusetts Mineral Club



**A great mix of members!**



# OutCroppings

## December, 2021

[www.semml.com](http://www.semml.com)

Incorporated April 8, 1970

Meetings held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30pm  
(excluding July and August)

Meetings are held at the Rockland Eagles Hall  
29 Park Street, Rockland, MA 02370

**December Holiday Meeting Dec.09,2021**  
**Canceled**

**Rescheduled for the**  
**January Meeting Jan. 13, 2022**

**President:** Walter Schell [wshell1191@gmail.com](mailto:wshell1191@gmail.com)  
**Vice President:** Steve Kimbal [steve@kimbalpainting.com](mailto:steve@kimbalpainting.com)  
**Secretary:** Sara Ostrander [naturespeaks2you@gmail.com](mailto:naturespeaks2you@gmail.com)  
**Treasurer:** Dr. Robert Chasen [drchasen@comcast.net](mailto:drchasen@comcast.net)  
**Newsletter Editor:** Larry Ryan [zone859@verizon.net](mailto:zone859@verizon.net)



## **A Message from President Walter Schell**

**Happy holidays all,**

Sorry we had to cancel the meeting and party.

I feel in the best interest of all , we will hopefully reschedule it into January's meeting .

We have to consider the health of everyone during this resurgence.

I wish you all a joyous and safe holiday . Hope there is lots of coal in your stocking or maybe herks!!

Best regards

*Walter*

## **A Message from the Editor**

The weather is getting colder and soon the snow will fly, keeping us from gathering together out of doors on a regular basis. But that shouldn't stop you and the family from making good use of the weather when it is nice. Rock Hounds can scour the beaches after storms to see what the sea has rolled up on the shore. Solid ice can get you to rock formations deep in the swampy forests of SE Massachusetts, where plant fossils and indigenous people artifacts can be found. Metal detectors are a great winter pastime on the beaches when the winds are calm. Get the idea? Remain active! And when the weather is rough, search the internet and discover places to search when next spring comes around! ***Minerals are Everywhere!***

*Larry*

**[SEMMC Facebook Page](#)**

**Keep in touch with our Facebook Page to get the sudden additions to the digging schedule!**

**Field Trip Agenda**

**Field collecting trips are open to SEMMC members only, as our insurance policy covers members only. Please bring your SEMMC Membership card with you.**

All participants of field trips are required to contact trip leaders at least 48 hours in advance of trip date.

*Schedules may change. Please contact the host to confirm date, time and details.*

Some trips may be eliminated, added, or altered depending on weather and other circumstances.

However, please remember we do have a club claim in Fonda, NY and it is open year-round, weather permitting.

The Club Rules for our claim can be found on the website.

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## **Mineral of the Month**

### **Moissanite**



Moissanite is naturally occurring silicon carbide and its various crystalline polymorphs. It has the chemical formula  $\text{SiC}$  and is a rare mineral, discovered by the French chemist Henri Moissan in 1893.

Before 1958 the only moissanite was found in meteorites. Then a deposit was found in the Green River Formation in Wyoming. From there other deposits have been found around the world but it remains a rare mineral.

Clear moissanite rivals diamond when fashioned into jewelry and is quite expensive.



Synthetic Moissanite

## Silicon Carbide

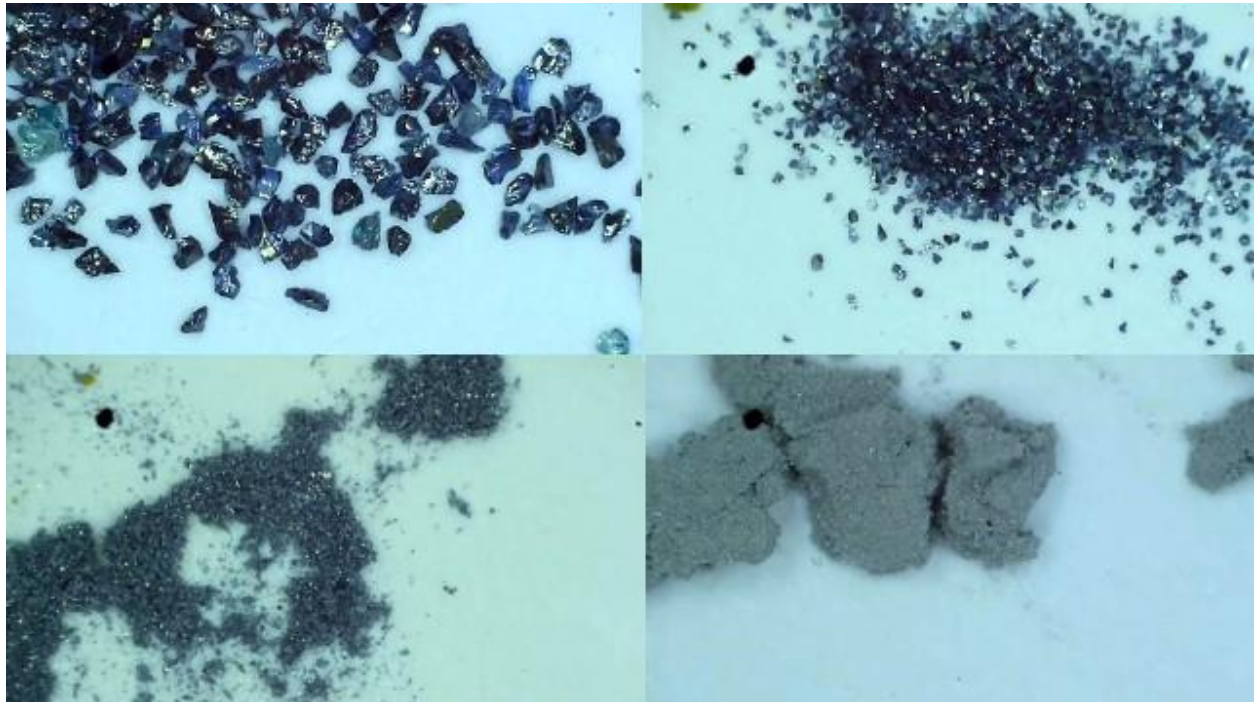
Silicon carbide (SiC), also known as carborundum (*/ˌkɑːrbəˈrʌndəm/*), is a semiconductor containing silicon and carbon. It occurs in nature as the extremely rare mineral moissanite. Synthetic SiC powder has been mass-produced since 1893 for use as an abrasive. Grains of silicon carbide can be bonded together by sintering to form very hard ceramics that are widely used in applications requiring high endurance, such as car brakes, car clutches and ceramic plates in bulletproof vests.

Electronic applications of silicon carbide such as light-emitting diodes (LEDs) and detectors in early radios were first demonstrated around 1907. SiC is used in semiconductor electronics devices that operate at high temperatures or high voltages, or both. Large single crystals of silicon carbide can be grown by the Lely method and they can be cut



into gems known as synthetic moissanite. There are multiple sites on the internet that display and sell both synthetic and natural moissanite. It is very expensive to purchase.

Silicon Carbide is also widely used as an abrasive in rock tumbling. It's hardness 9+ on the MOHS scale make it an ideal and relatively inexpensive item to smooth and polish stone. Silicon Carbide comes in very coarse 42-60 grit up to very fine 1000 grit or greater. It works very well in both styles of polishing machines, tumbler or a vibrating barrel.



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## **Rock Tumbling Made Easy! Ya Right.....**

Rock tumbling is a method of smoothing and polishing rocks, minerals, glass and brass. They are easy to use, and there are different brands to choose from. Most companies also sell bags of rough stones of various types to polish if you wish. I like finding my own rocks to polish and there is certainly not a shortage. Walk along any lake , river, stream, or ocean beach and look at the rocks in the water as you can see what they might look like once the process is complete. Separate rocks by

hardness or type as that works better than grouping all different hardness stones in one batch. It takes time to smooth some stones of their rough spots, so take the time, inspect every piece before it advances to the next grit. With patience and following all guidelines you will succeed, most of the time.



These stones above are complete, but not perfect and I will return some to the barrel for more smoothing. Conglomerates pose a different problem as they have many different minerals contained within them. The stone below has only passed the first step.



**December 12, 2021 from 1-5 pm** Children of all ages can come to the Rockland Garden Center, on Rte 123, Rockland, MA and take a stone of their choosing, From Rock Santa, compliments of our organization. Yes, Santa Claus isn't handing out any coal this year, though there are different types, each with it's own unique properties.....

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**When traveling around the country**  
**And you want a place to prospect,**  
**Go to**  
**[www.mindat.org](http://www.mindat.org)**

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## **Member's Corner**

**Welcome New Members!**





## **Don't be overwhelmed!**

Hello to all the new members of OUR CLUB! Make sure you attend the monthly meetings. There are stories to be told, information to be gathered, raffles to be won, guest speakers, What we dig, Where we dig and How we dig are all discussed with our senior members. Be there!

## **Shirts are in!**



**So your choices are...**

**SMALL - pink with black ink OR orange with black ink**

**MEDIUM - pink/black OR blue/white;**

**LARGE - pink/black OR blue/black**

**X LARGE - pink/black OR blue/white**

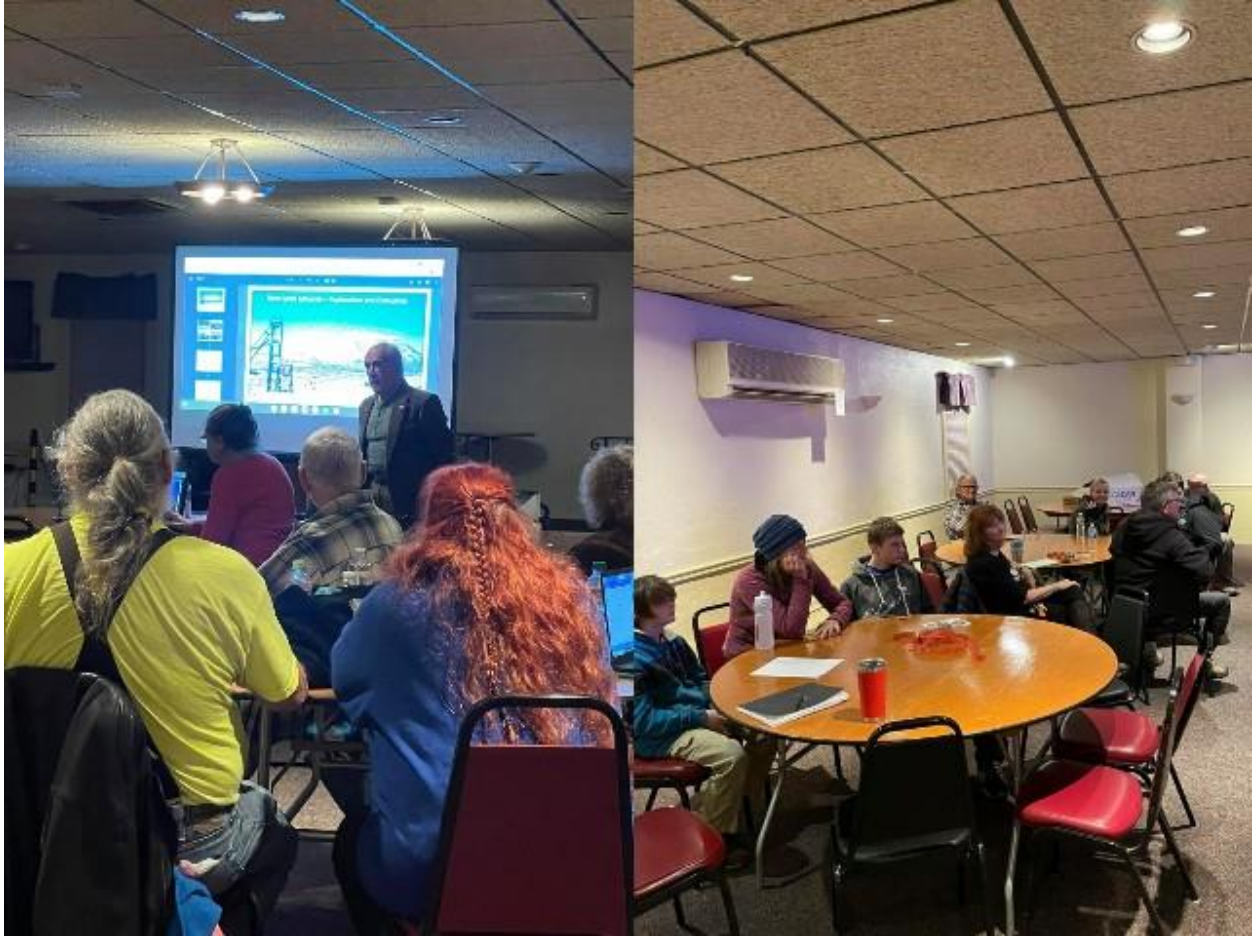
**XX LARGE - blue/white**

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The **November Meeting** was a another good time. There was an abundance of quality raffle prizes, and as usual Diamond Bob did a great job! President Walter Schell called the meeting to order and the Secretaries report was read and accepted as was Treasurer's report. The scholarship Award was discussed as how it is to be presented and to Whom. Walter is looking into that for the Club. The Rockland Eagles has been booked thru June 2022, or until Bridgewater State allows us to return there. The December Meeting is also the Holiday Party for the Club and the Committee is working hard to make it a success.







The Guest Speaker was Dr. Tony Mariano, who gave a talk about Rare Earth and deposits he has visited and analyzed around the world. He discussed the importance of the mineral to different governments and the business community. Thank You Dr. Mariano!

Meetings last about 2 hours and the time flies by. See You **JAN 13, 2022**



I'll start in the purple section!

New Club E-Mail Address

[southeastmmc@gmail.com](mailto:southeastmmc@gmail.com)

[SEMMC FACEBOOK PAGE](#)

The December Meeting to be held December 9, 2021



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**Best of the Best!**

**Got a good picture of your best Find?**



**Let me see what you found!**





So many to choose from!



How about Happiness? We collected a lot of **THAT**, this year!

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## **Southeastern Massachusetts Mineral Club**



**Memberships run from August 1<sup>st</sup> to July 31**

**\$20.00 per Family per year Dues**

And for that money, you are a fully insured Club Member, access to a wealth of mineral knowledge, Club digs, are held at some of the best quarries in New England, 10 scheduled Meetings per Year, September



to June where knowledge and information are exchanged freely. New members learn the What, Where, How and When. Come to the next meeting and see.

**“Hey, someone gave me these “Rocks”**

**What are they?**



**Come Join Us and find out!**

**Scouting for new spots**

We are always looking for new areas to collect from. If you are sitting at home with nothing to do, log on and find out about the history of mining in your area. Many old and abandon quarries and mines still exist throughout our region. Also there are many “ancient” sites that hold evidence of the indigenous peoples that were living here and quite possibly Viking Settlements that were here before Columbus in 1492. Take a look and see what you can find. Send me any info you have and I will publish it so all Club Members will know.

Larry

[America's Stonehenge](#)

Thank You Santa!

Coal



**Bituminous**



**Anthracite**



**Happy Holidays to All!**

**Membership Form**

Your dues help keep us going. Dues pay for the newsletter, correspondence, refreshments, speakers, and a host of other expenses.

Dues are as follows:

**-Individual Membership \$15.00 Yearly Dues with e-mail newsletter-**

**-Family Membership \* \$20.00 Yearly Dues with e-mail newsletter-  
\* Family Membership must list all family members as of September 1  
of the membership year.**

**Tear off and return with your payment made out to SEMMC, Inc.**

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Children** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Zip code** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone(s)** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Email address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Southeastern Massachusetts Mineral Club  
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