

# Mineral of the Month Club



**August 2016**

## **Featured Mineral Aquamarine & Schorl**

Our Mineral of the Month for August is a composite of aquamarine and schorl. Aquamarine is the blue variety of beryl, or beryllium aluminum silicate; the tourmaline-group mineral schorl is basic sodium iron aluminum borosilicate. While most composites consist of two or more individual minerals in close association, these specimens are unusual in that the long, black, needle-like, opaque crystals of schorl are included *within* the translucent, hexagonal prisms of aquamarine. These specimens were collected at Erongo Mountain in the Usakos and Omaruru districts, Erongo Region, Namibia. Erongo Mountain was first mined for tin and tungsten some 80 years ago and is now recognized as one of the world's classic localities for aquamarine specimens. Both aquamarine and schorl occur in granite pegmatites, which are vug-like pockets of very coarse-grained granite. At Erongo Mountain, small pegmatite pockets are exposed on almost sheer cliffs. Recovering crystals from these pockets is an exceedingly dangerous job that is performed by native "diggers," whose sole income is derived from the sale of specimens of aquamarine, schorl and other minerals.

We have chosen the largest, best-developed, and most visually attractive composite specimens of aquamarine and schorl for our Platinum Level members. These hexagonal aquamarine crystals are three-quarters of an inch wide and about an inch-and-a-half long. All are pale blue in color and have sufficient transparency to display the internal crystals of black schorl. Some specimens also include independent schorl crystals and sections of the white albite matrix.

Our Mineral of the Month Club manager Christine has photographed each of these specimens. To select your Platinum Level specimen of aquamarine with schorl from Erongo Mountain, Namibia, please contact Christine during regular business hours. After studying the photographs that Christine will provide, you will be able to select the specific Platinum Level aquamarine-schorl specimen that best suits your collection.

As always, thanks to all our members for making the Mineral of the Month Club what it is today!

Dimitri, Mary, Christine, and Lora

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# Further Information

**Coming in September**



Mottramite- Ojuela Mine, Mapimí, Mexico

**We love to hear from our members, so please call or email anytime!**

**Discounts available:** If you order 4 or more minerals from the Featured Mineral letter and/or the Offering sheet you will receive a 10% discount on your mineral purchase.

**Ordering:** To place an order you can call #800-941-5594 or email [christine@celestialearthminerals.com](mailto:christine@celestialearthminerals.com)

**Shipping:** As always, shipping is free on all orders over \$100.00 shipping in the United States.

**Specimen size:** All our specimens are approximate in size.

**Method of payment:** We accept, Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, PayPal and checks.

***Please make checks payable to Celestial Earth Stones.***

