

MICROMOUNTERS OF NEW ENGLAND NEWSLETTER

The MMNE was organized on November 8, 1966 for the purpose of promoting the study of minerals that require a microscope

No. 296

April, 2009

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Current Meeting

Saturday, Apr. 18 2009
Trinity Lutheran Church
Chelmsford, MA
Doors open at 9 am

Map and driving
directions are on last
page

Next Meeting

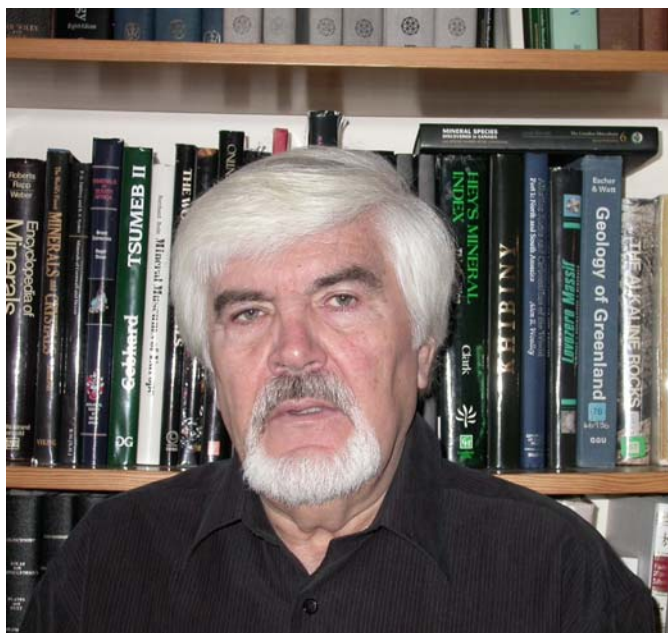
Saturday, May 16, 2009
American Legion
Post #279
88 Bancroft St.
Auburn, MA
Set-up 8 am
Symposium start 9 am

For information regarding
MEETING CANCELLATION
due to inclement weather,
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(603) 880-4018
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@yahoo.com

Next Meeting: Saturday, April 18, 2009. Trinity Lutheran Church Chelmsford, MA.

It's almost here! The **2009 Micromounters of New England Annual Symposium** will be held on **May 16 at the American Legion Chester P. Tuttle Post #279 located at 88 Bancroft Street Auburn, MA.** Time is running out to buy your ticket, which will include a large, catered lunch. (See registration elsewhere in this newsletter.)

We are very lucky to finally have the chance to host **Laszlo Horvath**. As **Norm Biggart** pointed out, MMNE member discussions to host Laszlo have been recorded as long ago as 1975!



Laszlo Horvath

April Mineral Competition

The April competition will be locality specific instead of specimen focused. We will be looking for micros from the Manhan Mine in Loudville, MA. For more information on Loudville please refer to the MMNE website in the Member's Only area. There you will find an index of almost 2 dozen documents assembled by **Jim Parella** over the years. We have scanned them all in for preservation in electronic format. This is truly a fantastic and invaluable resource.

New 2009 members area password for MMNE web site

To access the members' area, you will need the new club account. It's a secret only for 2009 paying members so don't tell anyone! Login is "**2009member**" and the password is "**optic**". Use all lower case and no spaces or quotation marks.

The **Newsletter** is the official publication of the Micromounters of New England (MMNE). The last by-laws revision was April 19, 2003. The MMNE is a member of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) (<http://www.amfed.org/efmls>) and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) (<http://www.amfed.org>). Material from the *Newsletter* may be copied in other rock and mineral publications if credit is given to the author and the *Newsletter* and permission has been obtained from the author. If there are questions regarding copying contact the editor. The club address is c/o the Secretary. Meetings are held monthly, September through May, except for December, and usually on an informal basis in July. Meeting sites may change and will be posted in the *Newsletter* as far in advance as possible. Visitors are welcome to attend all meetings. Bring a microscope and light source if you have one.

DUES are \$12/year for a single person and \$15/year for a family membership, levied on a calendar basis. The family membership includes two adults and all children under 18 living at the same address. One copy of the *Newsletter* will be sent on a family membership.

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NOTICE:

As in years past, the MMNE membership list, with mailing addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses will be published in the May newsletter. If you do NOT wish to be included in this published list, please contact Tom Mortimer, tjmort@comcast.net (603) 673-4039, before May 1 2009.

Donation for Symposium Auction

We have had a most generous and wonderful donation from **Bob Janules**, it is a fractal image that truly resembles vivianite. To see more of Bob's wonderful creations please visit fractalandphoto.com.



MMNE SECRETARIAL REPORT FOR 03/21/09

The March MMNE meeting came to order at Trinity Lutheran Church in Chelmsford, MA, President Joe Mulvey presiding. A large part of the business meeting consisted of a series of brief business matters in the form of announcements by the president and other members. These were as follows:

- The upcoming Rochester Symposium is the weekend of April 23rd.
- The updated MMNE bylaws would be published in the April newsletter for member review prior to the ratification vote at the annual May Meeting.
- Officer nominations for the next year will take place during the April meeting
- The deadline for dues payment is approaching. If dues are not paid the April newsletter will be the last one sent. The website password will also change.
- The May mini-symposium date was not published in the March newsletter. The date is May 16.
- Dana Jewell spoke to the North Shore Gem and Mineral Club regarding a micromount presentation and a demonstration at their May mineral show. Joe said he would put together a laptop slide show for the show and consult about a presentation for a fall meeting.
- The MMNE club camera "died" but the company replaced it with a new one. It came with updated software.
- The camera is booked for member take-home use through May.
- Donations for the May Meeting silent auction and sales tables had been received from Pat Barker and Inga Jewell. Nicely mounted and labeled Maine specimens were received from Ron LePage.
- It was reiterated that the old club PA system had been sold, donated or given away at some point in the past. Joe would attempt to confirm it with the apparent recipient of the system.
- The winners of the March micromount competition were:
 - >1st place: Mike Swanson for his anatase from Switzerland
 - >2nd place three-way tie: Gene Bearss' brookite from Franklin, NJ; Pat Barker's rutile from High Point, North Carolina and Anna Wilken's anatase from France.
- The April micromount competition will be Loudville, MA microminerals.
- Tom Mortimer announced that he was currently photographing letter "S" for his NH Mindat website. His thumbnail NH mineral display was filling up too. Tom said he had submitted an abstract to the Rochester Symposium and that he also will give short presentation on his projects there.
- Nate Martin said he had eight hundred "short thumbnail boxes" that he would sell for fifteen cents each to anyone interested.
- Peter Cristofono said he would donate a copy of his book of mineral photos for the club's May auction.

There were two matters that generated brief discussion and commentary. The President asked members how they felt about inviting Absolute Clarity to display its wares at the May mini-symposium. Essentially there was no objection so Joe said he would follow up on the invitation. The one remaining matter was a suggestion to purchase microminerals from an Internet dealer so as to "salt" the sales table with some additional material. Members doubted that such specimens would be as good as club members themselves could provide. The move was rejected by a show of hands.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Wilken, MMNE Secretary

Notes from club president, Joe Mulvey

Donations to the sales table, silent auction and door prizes should be done either at the April club meeting or arrangements should be made with either **Hal Herard** or **Joe Mulvey**. If you will be bringing donations directly to the symposium, please arrive early and if they are not already color coded for price, check with Hal for some stickers.

The Anatase, Brookite, Rutile mineral competition at the March meeting was fantastic! We had 11 entries, plus displays of larger specimens from **Tom Mortimer** and **Dana Jewell**. Top honors to **Michael Swanson** for an absolutely superb Anatase from Binntal, Switzerland. Close behind were **Gene Bearss**, **Anna Wilken** and **Pat Barker**. To see photos of most of the specimens taken using the club camera and microscope please refer to the MMNE website and look for the March Specimen Competition under the Photos link.

Another most important part of the April meeting is the nomination of officers for the coming year. As you probably recall, members will elect new officers at the symposium for the coming year. This is your chance to step up and actively participate in the club. As most members are aware, there are only a few who do the bulk of the work. Between new blood and bystanders, we hope that others, for the good of the club and the hobby, will be willing to donate their time, energy and talents to actively participate as an officer of the club. **Anna Wilken** has been club treasurer for many years. She is beyond ready for a new challenge. The club is desperate for somebody else to take the reins from Anna. Responsibilities are not as great as they were a few years back, we have moved some of the non-money related burdens from the Treasurer elsewhere. Please consider yourself formally requested to become an officer!

In this newsletter you will find the finalized version of the club by-laws. At the May symposium during the business meeting we expect to ratify these by-laws for the coming year. Please take a few minutes to review them.

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Report on the 8th Annual Winter Micromount Gathering - Henry Barwood, Troy, Alabama

The annual Winter Micromount Gathering is held at the Lodge at Advent Christian Village in Dowling Park, Florida. Martha and Ed Cunningham organized the meeting some years back and it has grown into a major southeastern micromount conference. It is normally scheduled for the last Saturday in February, but over the years micro enthusiasts have arrived earlier and earlier. This year was no exception. I headed for the meeting on Wednesday, February 25, but my truck literally died just south of Troy and I didn't make it down until Thursday afternoon. All but one of the 16 participants had arrived by Thursday and everyone was busy examining give-away material and swapping minerals and stories.

We always have a lot of give-away material and this year seemed exceptional. Jason Smith sent down several flats of Foote Mine phosphates (unfortunately Jason and Mandy couldn't make the meeting this year). Don Reems brought numerous egg cartons of Graves Mountain material. Bill Lechner brought several flats of Francon Quarry specimens. I supplied some syenite pegmatite material from 3M and Jones Mill in Arkansas.

Friday morning all but the die-hard micromounters took a "cruise" on the Suwannee River. The afternoon was devoted to sorting through the remaining give-away material, and discussions of the identity of various specimens. Our program organizer, Julian Gray was the last participant to arrive that evening.

The "official" program began at 9AM Saturday morning. Bill Lechner presented an excellent program on the minerals found at the Francon Quarry. His images illustrated the excellent micromounts that were found at this once prolific collecting location. Bill also brought in more specimens from Francon for the give-away tables. After the presentation, we had a wonderful lunch served up in the meeting room, and then Julian gave a presentation on the status of the Tellus Museum. The expansion of the former Weinman Mineral Museum has been extremely successful and attendance at the museum is way up.

The last program, by Earl English, was an impressive viewing of minerals mounted from the give-away tables at previous meetings.

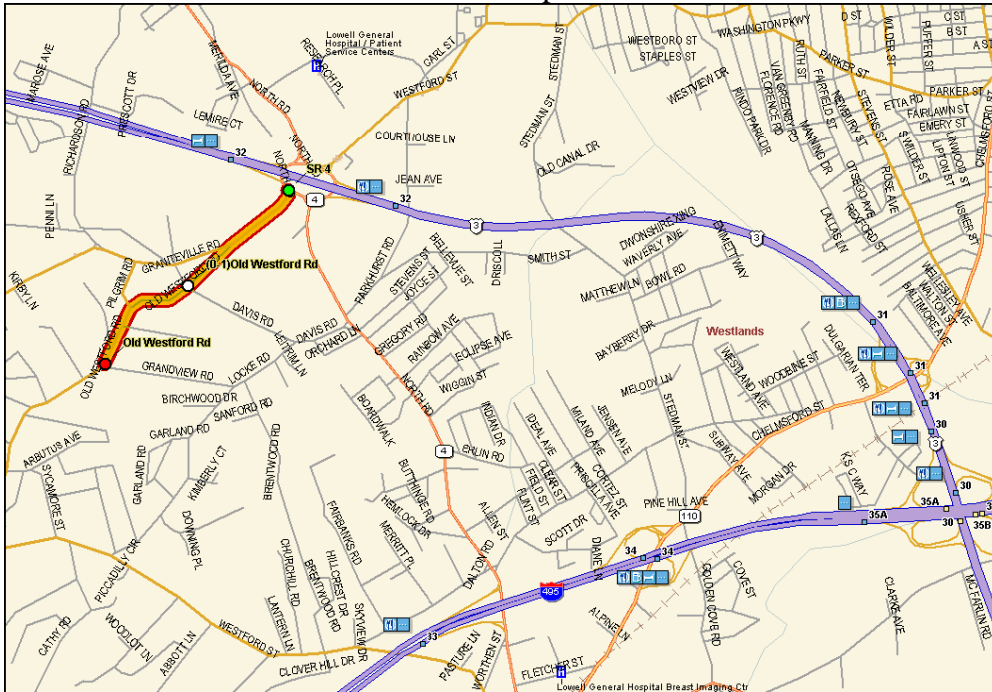
Bad weather began to move in Saturday evening and the meeting broke up early, around 9:30PM, so that everyone could pack up before thunderstorms arrived later that evening. The meeting continued the trend of being very relaxed, providing excellent material from the give-away tables, and providing excellent programs. I think every attendee is already signed up for next year. If you are reading this and have never been to the Winter Gathering, you should make plans to go next year.

DIRECTIONS TO TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, CHELMSFORD MA

170 Old Westford Rd., Chelmsford, MA.

From Rt. 3, take Exit 32, (The "Drum Hill Rotary"). From Rotary, Take Old Westford Rd. towards Westford for about .85 miles to Grandview Rd. Entrance for Trinity Lutheran Church on left. Proceed up rather long driveway to parking area. If things go according to plan, we should be able to use the entrance on the far left side of the church. Our meeting room is just inside this entrance.

Those coming from the south may want to try an alternate route, exiting from Rt. 495 at Exit 33, then taking Rt. 4 north to a left onto Davis Rd.... see map below.



REGISTRATION FORM Micromounters of New England Annual Symposium May 16, 2009

REGISTRATION FEE: Members \$20, Non-members \$25

Make checks payable to: Micromounters of New England (MMNE)

Return to: Anna Wilken 79 Meadow Lane, Campton, NH 03223

Member Name _____ @ \$20 each _____

Member Name _____ @ \$20 each _____

Non-Member Name _____ @ \$25 each _____

Non-Member Name _____ @ \$25 each _____

Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

**Please return by May 9th, 2009, the closing date for ordering a meal.
48 hours notice is required for cancellation with refund.**

Micromounters of New England
Constitution and Bylaws Updated April 9, 2009

Article 1

Section 1.

The name of this organization shall be the Micromounters of New England hereafter referred to as "MMNE".

Section 2.

The MMNE is organized to promote the study of minerals that require the use of magnification for better study and appreciation of their characteristics.

Section 3.

No member shall receive compensation for the performance of his/her duties as an elected officer of the MMNE.

Article 2.

Membership

Section 1.

"Members in good standing" are those persons who have been granted membership in the MMNE and are not in arrears in the payment of their dues. Hereafter the terms "member" or "members" shall be synonymous with the term "member in good standing of the Micromounters of New England."

Section 2.

All persons of the age of 19 or over who are interested in the study of minerals, especially minerals that require the use of magnification for better study and appreciation of their characteristics, are eligible to apply for membership in the MMNE.

Persons under 19 years of age who have a member serving as a sponsor may be allowed to apply for membership at the discretion of the officers.

Section 3.

The names of the candidates for membership shall be presented to the recording secretary at a regular meeting and shall be accompanied by dues for one year. Election to membership shall be reviewed by the

membership chairperson and presented to the membership for approval by a simple majority vote at the next scheduled MMNE meeting at which a quorum is present.

Section 4.

Honorary membership.

Any person who is not a member of the MMNE and who has conspicuously promoted the study of microminerals or micromounting or has rendered significant service to the MMNE may be elected honorary membership. Each candidate for honorary membership shall be presented to the executive committee by a sponsor who is a member with a letter of introduction regarding the reason(s) for nomination. Election to honorary membership shall be made by a two-thirds vote at the annual business meeting. Honorary members shall be exempt from the payment of dues, but honorary membership does not confer voting privileges and does not entitle the honorary member to receive a free subscription to the newsletter.

Section 5.

Life membership

Life membership may be conferred on any person who has been an actively participating member of the MMNE for an extended period of time, and who, for whatever reason, does not or cannot continue to participate in MMNE activities. Each candidate for life membership must be presented to a quorum of members at any club meeting. Life members shall be exempt from the payment of dues, shall have voting privileges, and shall receive a free subscription to the newsletter.

Section 6.

Members shall be entitled to attend all meetings, participate in all activities and receive a subscription to the Newsletter. Guests will be welcome at all meetings but will be required to pay dues if attending more than two (2) meetings within a twelve (12) month period. Members in arrears may participate in club activities under the rules for guests; they may not vote or be counted as part of a quorum and will not receive a Newsletter.

Section 7.

A membership list containing the names and other demographics of all members, including all life and honorary members will be distributed at least annually in the newsletter just prior to the annual business meeting to members and life members.

Section 8.

A member is considered to be in arrears when annual dues have not been paid by January 1 of the current year. Notification for renewal of membership shall be sent to each member in the November newsletter of the prior year. No member who is in arrears may be elected to office, serve on a committee, or continue as an elected officer without the approval of the Executive Committee.

Section 9.

The Executive Committee may, at a regular meeting, recommend to the membership expulsion of any member who breaks the AFMS or EFMLC code of ethics or whose attitude or conduct is considered extremely detrimental to the welfare of the MMNE. Such expulsion may be made only after the member has been given an opportunity to show cause why the expulsion is not justified. A quorum of the Executive Committee must meet with member prior to the regular meeting. All members of the Executive Committee must be notified by the corresponding secretary of the planned meeting with the member.

Article 3

Officers and their Duties

Section 1.

Any member may run for and be voted into office. The officers of the MMNE shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Recording-Corresponding Secretary, Membership chairperson - Treasurer and the editor of the Newsletter, all of whom shall be elected at the annual business meeting or until their successors have been elected. A member may hold any two of these offices at the discretion of the Executive Committee and the membership except for the combination of President and Vice-President. No member of the Executive Committee may also hold the position of Treasurer.

Section 2.

The President shall preside at all meeting of the MMNE and shall preside as Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Section 3.

The Vice-President shall act as an aide to the President and shall preside in the absence of that officer. The Vice-President shall succeed the President should he/she vacate the office of the President or become incapacitated for any reason. The Vice-President shall continue to serve in that capacity until the President is able to resume the duties of the office of the President or until the next scheduled elections.

Section 4.

The recording secretary shall keep an accurate record of all the MMNE meetings and shall act as Secretary of the Executive Committee and perform other duties as are customary to the office.

Section 5.

The corresponding Secretary shall conduct the ordinary correspondence of the MMNE. Absentee ballots and election slates will be contained in the Newsletter in a timely fashion.

Section 6.

The treasurer shall be appointed by a majority vote of the Executive Committee and serve for a two-year term. The treasurer shall receive and disburse all monies, keep a strict account in writing of all monies which he/she may receive and disburse, retain written vouchers for payments made and shall submit a written statement monthly and an annual report. All records, including receipts and vouchers shall be kept for a period of time consistent with Internal Revenue Service Rules and Regulation, made available for any audits, passed on to any successor and destroyed only with the explicit permission of the Executive Committee.

The Treasurer, acting as membership chairperson shall be responsible for maintaining a current membership and mailing list and shall report all additions and/or changes to the editor of the Newsletter on a timely basis.

Section 7.

The Editor shall produce and mail the Newsletter on a timely basis, The newsletter shall include a listing of the officer of the club and a schedule of upcoming meetings.

Section 8.

No member who is in arrears may be elected to office, serve on a committee, or continue as an elected officer without the approval of the Executive Committee.

Article 4

Executive Committee

Section 1.

The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers of the MMNE.

Section 2

The Executive Committee shall oversee all business of the MMNE and shall be responsible for all funds and properties of the MMNE. The Executive Committee shall appoint standing committees as necessary, approve the plans and work of standing committees and fill any vacancy which may arise in an office with that member serving until the next election of officers.

Section 3

The Executive Committee shall meet, (a) at the discretion of the President, (b) by request of three members of the board, or (c) by request of 10 members of the MMNE.

Section 4.

A quorum of The Executive Committee shall consist of the majority of the officers.

Article 5

Meetings and Elections

Section 1.

Meetings shall be held at such a time and place as arranged by the President or member designated by the President to perform this function.

Section 2.

The annual business meeting for the election of officers and the submission of reports of officers and committees shall be held during

the regular meeting in April or at any other time agreed to by a two-thirds vote of a quorum of the members.

Section 3.

A slate of officers shall be published in the Newsletter and presented one meeting prior to the annual business meeting. Additional nominations from the floor may be made at this time followed by the oral acceptance of nominees. An absentee ballot shall be made from these names and mailed via the Newsletter to every member to be returned to the recording secretary prior to the annual business meeting. Ballots of both absentee and those cast at the annual business meeting will be counted by a committee of two members who will report the results of the voting at the meeting.

Section 4.

10% of the active membership, but not less than 10 members, shall form a quorum for the purpose of election or the transaction of business.

Article 6

Dues

Section 1.

Dues shall be payable on or before January 1st of each calendar year and shall not be prorated. The amount of the dues shall be adequate for the necessary expenses of the MMNE as demonstrated by the Treasurer's report, and shall be approved by a majority vote of members when a quorum is present. Any change in the amount of dues will become effective on January 1 of the next calendar year.

Section 2.

A member shall be considered in arrears if dues for the current year are not paid prior to January 1st of the current year. There will be a 30 day grace period during which the member will not be relieved of duties as an officer or committee member, but the member will be considered to be in arrears during that time. No Newsletter will be sent to any member in arrears. All members will receive the January Newsletter since it will be mailed prior to January 1st.

Section 3.

Renewal notices will be sent out with the November Newsletter with a reminder in the January Newsletter.

Article 7

Committees

Section 1.

All standing committees shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. Standing committees are program, nominating and membership.

Section 2.

The number of members appointed to any standing committee shall be left to the discretion of the Executive Committee.

Section 3.

Ad hoc committees may be created and members appointed by the president as necessary with the simple majority approval of the Executive Committee.

Section 4.

An auditing committee shall examine the books prior to the annual meeting.

Article 8

Amendments

Section 1.

All amendments to, substitutes for, or alternative of the foregoing by-laws shall be proposed in writing and mailed to the membership via the Newsletter, and discussed at the following meeting. Amendments to, substitutes for, or alterations of the by-laws shall be voted on at the annual meeting. Absentee ballots shall be mailed to the active membership via the Newsletter at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting. No absentee ballot shall be counted unless the corresponding secretary receives it prior to the Annual Meeting. It shall require a simple majority vote, including the absentee ballots, of the members, or a two-thirds vote of all cast ballots if a majority of members have not voted, to amend the by-laws.

Section 2.

It shall require a two-thirds vote of the members to change the name of the MMNE or to

affiliate with other clubs or associations. Any such proposed changes shall be voted on only at the annual meeting. The active membership must be informed by mail of the proposed changes at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting and be supplied with an absentee ballot at that time.

Article 9

Inventory and Disposal of MMNE Property and Assets

Section 1.

At least once annually, an inventory of all club equipment shall be published in the newsletter. This inventory will contain at least name, item description, any serial number or identifying marks, an estimated value and the name of the member responsible for the equipment.

Section 2.

Members are responsible for care and maintenance of equipment. Any money required to maintain or repair shall be approved by a quorum prior to any expense being incurred.

Section 3.

If the MMNE disbands, all property and assets shall be disbursed by a club-held auction to members only. This auction will be held only to members. At least 20 days advance notice must be given to all members in good standing. At the time of notice, no new members will be allowed to join.

Section 4.

After disbanding, all monies shall be donated to a non-profit organization or geological publication that a quorum deems worthy of such a gift. Any items or materials still left over after the auction shall be donated to an appropriate educational based institution.

Article 10

Parliamentary Authority

Section 1.

The Rules contained in Roberts Rules of Order, Revised shall govern the MMNE in all cases to which they are applicable and are not inconsistent with these by-laws.