MICROMOUNTERS OF NEW ENGLAND

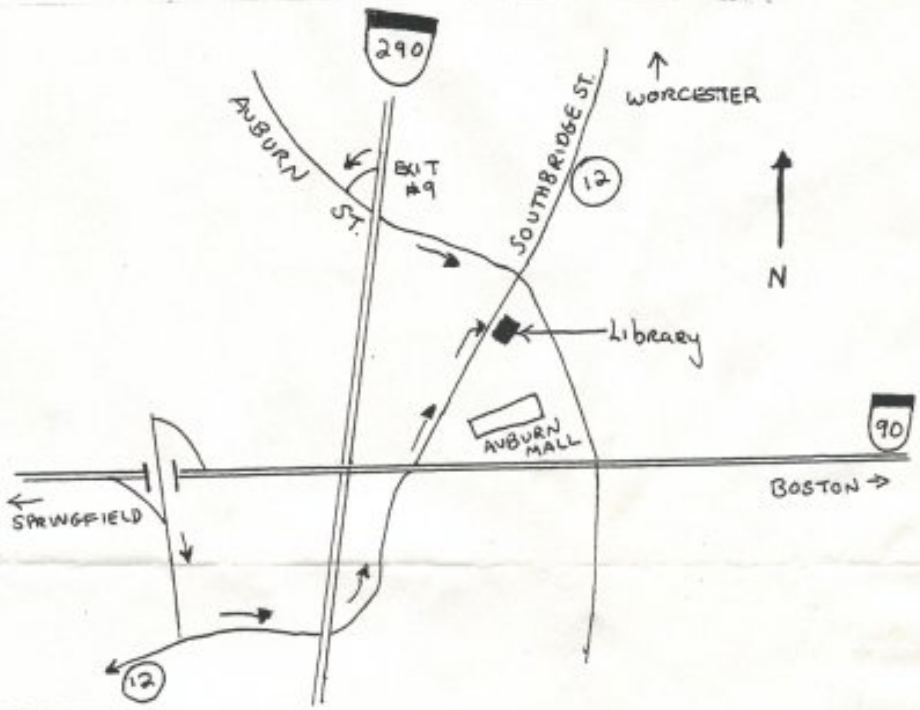
November 30, 1983 Newsletter #85

The next regular meeting of the Micromounters of New England will be Saturday, January 7, 1984, at the Auburn Public Library. We have reserved the Merriam Room for our use from 9:30a.m. to 3:30p.m.

To reach the library:

FROM WORCESTER: Take I 290 to Exit #9, turn right on Auburn Street, then right on Southbridge Street.

FROM BOSTON OR SPRINGFIELD: Via Mass. Pike, take Exit #10; follow the'Auburn North'sign to Route 12, then straight ahead to the library (about one mile).



REMINDER

Dues are due for January 1, 1984. We have increased our dues to $3.50 per member. Please send your check to our treasurer, Janet Cares. All members who have paid their dues will appear on our membership list to be printed in the March Bulletin.

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Dues are $3.50 per year and are due on January 1, payable to the treasurer

Contributions of news items for the Bulletin are welcome and should be sent to the Editor.

EFMLS GEOLOGY TOUR - 1984: "MICROMOUNTERS COLLECTING TOUR OF NEW ENGLAND"

A geology tour? What is a geology tour?
Those federation members who have been on previous tours know. They are fun - two weeks of fun and collecting. Think of the best club field trip you have ever been on and compound it-add evening campfire and study sessions, swaps, having guides to take you to well-known collecting sites, and especially the opportunity to make new friends- then you have the making of a federation geology tour.
Interested? Want to search for minerals such as bertrandite in Connecticut, babingtonite in Massachusetts, the rare phosphate microminerals at the Palermo Quarry in New Hampshire, apatities, beryls, & tourmalines in Maine? If so, this tour is for you.
But this year's tour will be specifically geared to the collecting of microminerals a "Micromounters Collecting Tour of New England". You do not have to be a dyed-in-the-wool micromounter to come along, but should be interested in collecting and learning about micro minerals.
Bear in mind that this will be a camping tour - but if you do not camp and wish to come, you will be given the itinerary and then be responsible for obtaining your own motel room. Pets will not be welcome.
The cost will be $35.00 per person.
Reservations will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis beginning March 1, 1984. No reservations will be accepted before that date.
As in the 1978 geology tour, the leaders will be Howard and Janet Van Iderstine, with Bill Shelton as a guide. If you wish further information, contact the Van Iderstine's at 2 Tulip Lane, Shelton, CT 06484 or by phone at (203) 929-3404.

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The following article, written and illustrated by Bob Fisher of St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada, appeared in the November 1983 issue of "Micronews", the bulletin of the Canadian Micro Mineral Association. We thank them for this information.

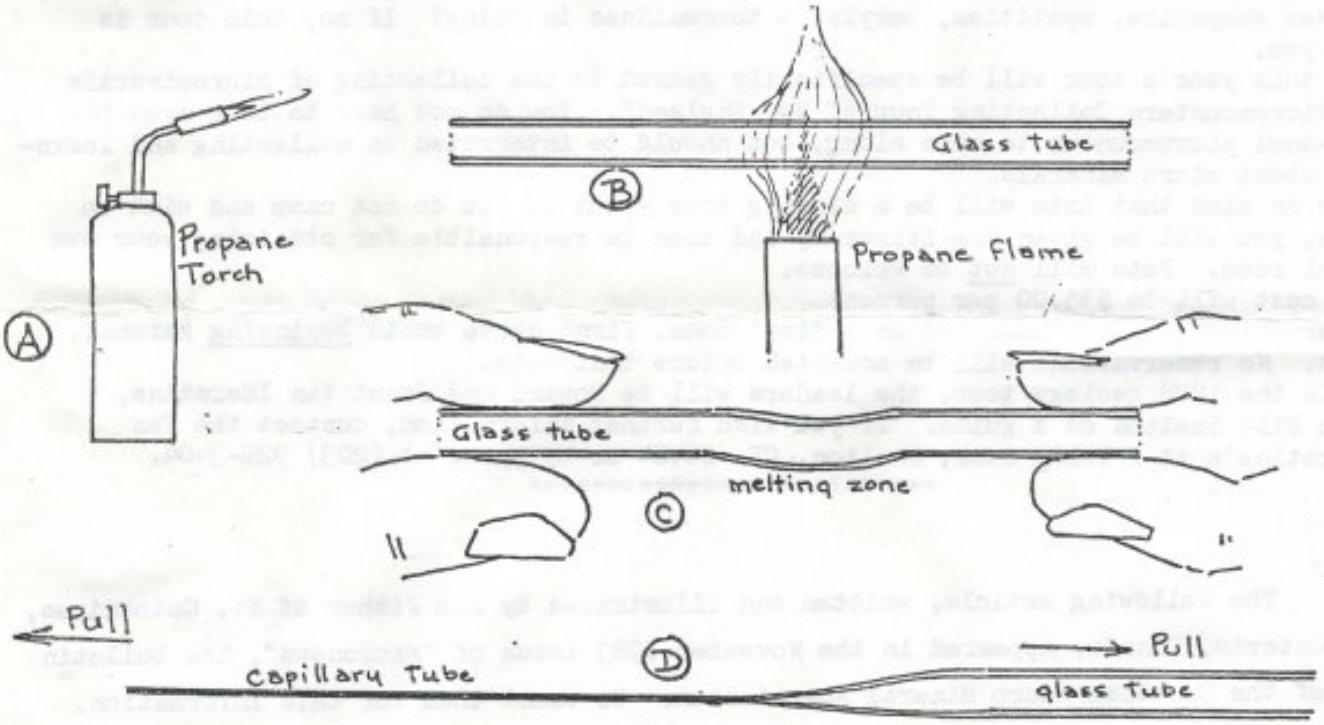
A WAY TO USE ACID TO TEST FOR CARBONATES IN MICRO CRYSTALS WITHOUT DESTROYING THE WHOLE SPECIMEN

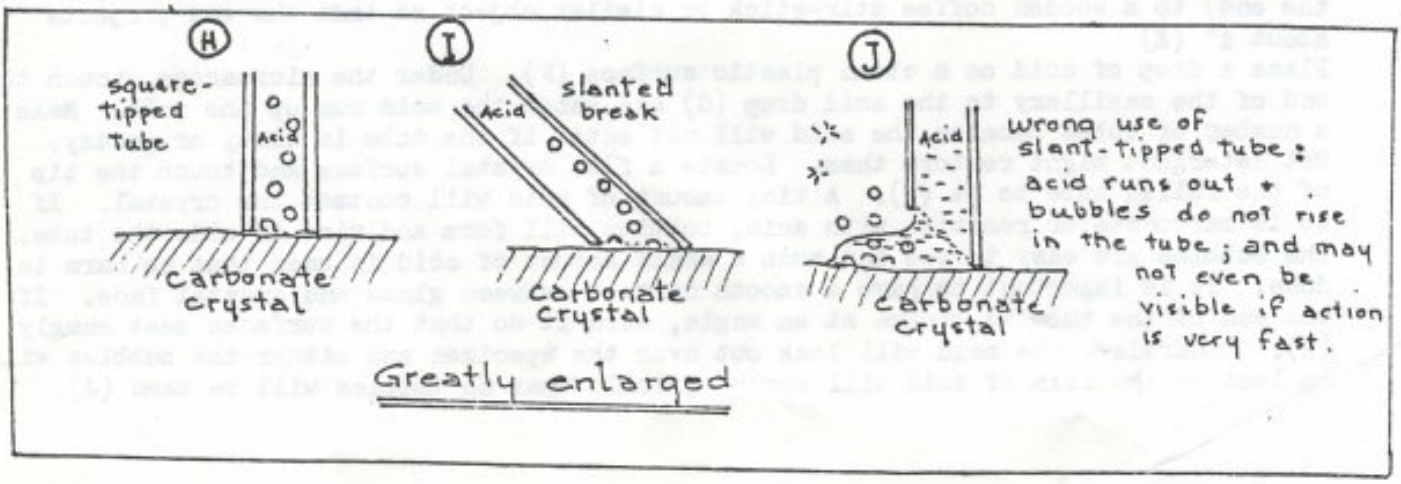
Start with a piece of soft glass tubing (B) 5"-6" long X 5-6 mm in diameter. Light up your propane torch (A) and adjust to a flame that will soften the glass tubing; try the end of a piece of tubing; it should melt. Hold the tubing in the flame, turning it slowly to ensure even heating; when it begins to sag (C) remove it from the flame and at once pull it out in a single motion to produce a very fine capillary tube about 2 feet long (D). Wash your hands well to remove any oils from the finger tips. Break out the centre portion and divide it into 2" lengths. It breaks easily between index fingers and thumbs. Glue each piece (don't plug the end) to a wooden coffee stir-stick or similar object so that the end projects about ¼" (E)
Place a drop of acid on a clean plastic surface (F). Under the microscope, touch the end of the capillary to the acid drop (G) and watch the acid run up the tube. Make a number of tubes because the acid will not enter if the tube is dirty or greasy. Hot detergent might restore them. Locate a flat crystal surface and touch the tip of the fulled tube to it (H). A tiny amount of acid will contact the crystal. If it is carbonate or reactive with acid, bubbles will form and rise in side the tube. The bubbles are easy to see and such a small amount of acid is used that no harm is done. It is important to have a smooth contact between glass and crystal face. If the end of the tube is broken at an angle, turn it so that the surfaces meet snugly (I). Otherwise, the acid will leak out over the specimen and either the bubbles will be lost or the film of acid will spread quickly that no bubbles will be seen (J).

A WAY TO USE ACID TO TEST FOR CARBONATES IN MICRO CRYSTALS WITHOUT DESTROYING THE WHOLE SPECIMEN

SEE DESCRIPTION ON PAGE 2.

By Bob Fisher, St. Catharines, Ont.





SKETCHES by Bob Fisher