



# MICROMOUNTERS OF NEW ENGLAND NEWSLETTER

February, 2000

no. 220

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

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## **Next Meeting**

March 18<sup>th</sup>, Sudbury, MA  
Public Library. Doors open  
at 9 AM.

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Dues are \$7.00/year and due  
on January 1st, payable to  
the Treasurer.

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News items for the *Newsletter*  
are welcome and should be  
submitted to the Editor.  
The *Newsletter* may be quoted if  
credit is given.  
The Club address is c/o Editor.

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## **This month's meeting**

The February meeting of the MMNE will be held Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at the Auburn Public Library in Auburn, MA. Doors open at 10 AM. Although no formal program has been announced, the club has many issues to decide on in the next few meetings. As always, bring microscopes, extension cords and any extra material you may have for trading or giveaways.

## **Rochester Symposium**

An email from one of our fellow Canadian collectors:

Hi Johannes,

I just got word from Steve Chamberlain about plans for the April 2000 Rochester Mineralogical Symposium. We have several MMNE members who come to that, so I think this would be a great item to stick in the next newsletter to show micromounters that we're getting somewhere:

"The executive of the Rochester Academy of Sciences annual Mineralogical Symposium have just announced that a special room will be set aside during the year 2000 Symposium for use by micromounters. Micromounters attending the Symposium are encouraged to bring their microscopes and material for trading or show. The room will be set up with tables and chairs, but participants should bring their own extension cords and other customary accessories. If this initial trial is a success, the room could become part of the standard facilities available at future Symposia."

Cheers,  
Quintin Wight

## **Member News**

MMNE member Neil Wintringham suffered a stroke in early November, 1999. Neil is back home and doing well, but will not be allowed to drive until mid-April. You can drop Neil a note at:

Neil Wintringham  
742 Cedarbrook Rd.  
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

## **Dues are still due!**

Remember dues for the year 2000 are due by March 31<sup>st</sup>. Please remit payment of \$7 to treasurer Janet Cares. Checks are to be made out to "Micromounters of New England".

## MICROMOUNTERS OF NEW ENGLAND

As the name implies, we are unique. This uniqueness, which we try to emphasize, is the study of minerals best viewed with the aid of a microscope. Most of, if not all of our members already have a basic knowledge of minerals and usually are members of one or more unspecialized mineral clubs. We try to restrict our programs, published articles, and information of other events to items relating to micromounting. We are interested in localities, in or adjacent to New England, as well as classic micromounting localities such as Franklin, NJ; Tiptop Mine, SD; or Hagedorff, Germany. Do not expect to see articles on lapidary, gem cutting, volcanoes, or fossils, or on shows or meetings outside our area except for micromount clubs. General interest earth science information is expected to be adequately handled by whatever other local club you may belong to.

We rely on our members to volunteer their time or expertise to help keep the club running smoothly. In return members get desirable giveaways at each meeting, exchange specimens or information with others, and obtain help in identification of unknowns. In May, members have the opportunity to hear a prominent speaker on a topic of value to micromounters, purchase good specimens at bargain prices, and enjoy a meal among friends. We try to keep dues and other expenses to a minimum in order that everyone may participate.

These benefits come at a price, of course, and we feel that each member should try to help in some way that is possible or comfortable for him/her. The accompanying job descriptions will show you what is needed and where you may best fit in. While it may be nice to sit back and let others work for you, we believe you will appreciate our group more if you are directly involved. Please study the possibilities and volunteer to one of your officers before our business meeting in April.

### General

All members should keep their eyes and ears open for news or articles of interest to micromounters, whether in journals, other club notices, or from personal knowledge, and forward this information to the editor. Any original articles you may want to submit would be welcome.

If you hear of special publications, videotapes, or slide programs relevant to mineralogy, bring that information to the club and pass around a sign-up sheet to take advantage of group discounts. Let officers know of any special skills or equipment you may have or have access to. Occasionally contribute snacks (doughnuts, cake, chips, dips, etc.).

### Jobs to be done – Club Officers

#### President:

1. Conduct regular business meetings, including reports of the Secretary, Treasurer, and committee chairmen, old and new business, etc. Try to be brief and present items to be voted on in a concise manner in order to avoid lengthy discussion.
2. Establish temporary committees (with approval of members) and appoint their chairman. The President is considered an ex-officio member of all committees as an advisor, without a vote, except to break a tie.
3. Keep in touch with officers and committee chairmen to make sure they are responsible in their duties.
4. Appoint delegates to Federation meetings as needed.

#### Vice-President:

1. Conduct meetings in the absence of the President.
2. Arrange brief volunteer programs for regular meetings except for potluck meetings. These mini programs will usually be given by MMNE members. Volunteer outsiders may be called in if the topic is of interest to our membership. Be sure proper equipment is available for the meetings.
3. Arrange calendar ahead, usually summer through November, later January through summer - many libraries will not reserve far in advance. Check for interferences (other clubs, field trips, MSH, etc).

#### Recording Secretary:

1. Keep the minutes of all regular meetings, and send them to the Editor for publication in the next Newsletter. Arrange for other member to take minutes if unable to attend.

#### Corresponding Secretary:

1. Handle general correspondence directed to MMNE. Send notes/cards of condolence to bereaved member or to those on a sick list as deemed necessary.
2. Send notes of appreciation to speakers at May meeting or at other times as deemed necessary.

#### Treasurer:

1. Handle all financial transactions of MMNE as authorized, and record them in books, which shall be audited periodically and be open to members for inspection at all times.
2. Report current balance at each regular meeting for inclusion in Recording Secretary's report.
3. Maintain funds in bank checking account. This account shall be made accessible to one or more other members, such access to be used only when the Treasurer is unable to perform his/her duties.
4. Recommend changes in dues to reflect changes in expenses. Presently dues are expected to cover expenses of Editor, fees or donations for regular meeting places, memorials, donations to mineral-related organizations, and cost of refreshments at regular meetings. Other expenses include authorized projects of members such as Pat Barker's photograph album of micromount activities and Bob Janules' album of photos of micros of interest to the MMNE.

#### Editor:

1. Prepare and mail a notice of each meeting. Include the date, time, and map (or directions) to the next meeting place. Succeeding meetings, Recording Secretary's report, and articles of interest to members should also be included.
2. Check the mailing list with the person responsible for keeping names of paid-up members. Publish it annually (usually in March) and withhold further notices from unpaid members.
3. Exchange Newsletters with other micromount organizations as deemed appropriate and select items worthy of copying in our newsletter, always crediting the source when printed.
4. Solicit contributed items from members for publication. Suggest notices of other micromount special meetings or shows, abstracts of new minerals, book or periodical reviews, biographies of prominent micromounters or MMNE members, and other member news.

#### Giveaways: (Could be done by individual or group.)

1. Obtain specimens or rough from members or others to be used as giveaways at each meeting. May be card-mounted, in egg boxes, or other at the discretion of person responsible, but should be labeled. If authorized by vote of members, may purchase specimens under special circumstances.
2. Arrange to have giveaways brought to each meeting and returned for revision.

#### Refreshments: (Individual or group)

1. Ask for donations of snacks from members
2. Provide coffee urn for meeting place. Heat water for instant coffee (regular or decaf), tea, etc. and check occasionally. Bring whitener (cream, powder, or thawed frozen non-dairy product), stirrers, spoons, cups, plates and napkins.
3. Clean up at the end of the meeting. If food remains, prepare attractive plate to give to the library (or other) personnel. They appreciate it and welcome us back.
4. Provide a trash bag for disposables which should be taken back by a member for final disposal. This has been requested by one library, and would be good to do it for all.

### Suggested changes or additions

#### Membership Chairman:

1. Collect dues in person or by mail, recording names of people paying. Forward the collected checks to the treasurer for deposit to the MMNE account.
2. Make out and mail a membership card to each dues payer.
3. Maintain an up-to-date list of paid members including their mail addresses, e-mail addresses and phone numbers. This list, in its entirety, should be published in the newsletter in March of each year.
4. Send new member information to the editor prior to the next newsletter publication.

#### Curator (should be in a central location)

1. Maintain and keep track of club property, which could be stored in a private home or rented storage facility. It must be locked and protected from dampness and temperature extremes.
2. Mark all property in an indelible fashion. Maintain an inventory, and keep a list in separate location. The list should be published from time to time so that members are aware of what is available.
3. Property may be borrowed by members, but must be signed for with indication of expected date of return.
4. Check regularly on items kept or borrowed. With this arrangement, we could purchase items for club use, such as a PA system, books, trimmers, etc. It might be possible to keep an extra microscope for loan to prospective members until they are able to obtain one of their own.

### NORTHEAST (MAY) MEETING

1. **RESERVATIONS:** Reserve Moose Lodge for the Saturday after Mothers' Day. Make sure there are no conflicts – Maine Symposium, CMMA, Mount St. Hilaire trip, North Shore Show, Rochester Symposium, etc. Be sure deposit has been made by Treasurer.
2. **MENU:** Contact caterer to reserve date, ask if deposit necessary and notify Treasurer to pay. Confirm menu. Give total count on date agreed on with caterer (usually one week before meeting.) Get count from Registrar, include speaker and guest.
3. **REFRESHMENTS:** Ask members to donate snacks—home made or purchased. Moose Lodge will provide coffee, but we bring sugar, cream/whitener, tea bags, cold drinks. Keep hot water available during the day, and put food out for attendees.
4. **ARRANGEMENTS:** Have adequate number of tables and chairs. Moose Lodge will arrange to our needs, but must be advised. Have tables spaced so we can walk between when chairs are occupied. Bring projector (Edna Lerer?) and screen (John Stewart?), MMNE signs and arrows, plug adapters, plug strips (many people will bring their own). Moose Lodge will provide P.A. system, but check on availability. Assume ten people per table, so have enough to seat expected number of attendees (usually about fifty) plus at least two for giveaways, 3-4 for sales, 2-3 for refreshment area, one for registrar, 2-3 for displays (J. Ebner, C. Weber), one for drawing items—framed photo, door prizes, silent auction, etc. Total = 11-14. Post signs as deemed necessary.
5. **PROGRAM:** Choose and contact prominent speaker on some phase of micromounting, with suggestions and approval from others. Should have more than one in mind in case of refusal of first choice. Contact by phone, mail, e-mail, giving date, nature of meeting (send previous program or announcement) and suggested compensation. MMNE usually pays for travel, one night's lodging, and meeting (registration fee, lunch, etc.) Most prefer suggested flat fee rather than submit expense account. Members have sometimes offered to put speaker up overnight, but check to see who might be available. Send maps/directions if driving, arrange for pickup if flying.

6. **PUBLICITY:** Prepare notices with date, speaker and title, location, registration form, map. Be sure map is not on back of form. Send copy to various micromount organizations (see EFMLS Directory), periodicals ("Rocks & Minerals," "Mineral News," etc.). Allow enough time for clubs to include in Bulletin and make reservations.
7. **REGISTRAR:** Take advance registrations by mail or at meetings. Have extra registration forms for those who don't bring or send one. Enter names on list (alphabetical if possible) for convenience. Give or send checks/cash and list of names to Treasurer. At meeting give nametag, door prize ticket, program, etc. to each attendee. Have felt pens and pencils available. Check off names as people arrive and note names of no-shows who should receive program, note of regret, but no refund unless adequate notice given.
8. **GIVEAWAYS:** Ask for donations (labeled) from members as at regular meetings. Bring to regular meeting ahead of time if possible. (Mounted specimens are considered to be sales.)
9. **SALES:** Ask for donations of priced, attractively mounted specimens, books, plastic boxes, reprints, small cabinets, etc. All proceeds go to MMNE.
10. **SALES TABLE:** Be sure to have enough small bills to start which you will take out later to repay you. Be sure items are priced, and arrange on table (by price?). Have some boxes (don't need covers) that people can use to pick out prospective purchases and carry back for examination. Bring a calculator (preferably printing) to keep track of sales. Give cash and checks to Treasurer at end of day.

#### Secretary's Report – January 8, 2000

President **Jim Warner** called the meeting to order at 11:20 AM. Members commented that they hadn't received their newsletter. **Mike Swanson** said the Editor had a mix-up about the date. Jim said that everything that was supposed to be printed in the January newsletter would instead be in the February issue.

Treasurer **Janet Cares** reported that we have \$4982.78 cash-on-hand and noted that annual dues are due. Janet also reported that the May Reunion meeting speaker will be **Dr. Andy McDonald**, a professor from Montreal who has done much work on the mineralogy of Mont Saint-Hilaire. Several speaking topics were suggested, but the members voted to have the subject be on new minerals from Mont Saint-Hilaire.

President Warner asked if anyone has made a dichroscope, because if no one objected, he will speak on the subject at the April meeting. This was approved. Jim introduced his son Chris, and we were delighted to have two Warners on the Micromounter's meeting. Secretary Pat Barker asked if someone would take notes at the February meeting, as she will be away on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

Dick Sternberg spoke on unique micromounting techniques. This subject generated discussion and further ideas and questions among the 17 members and guests present.

The meeting broke up at 2:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Pat Barker,

Secretary