



## 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. 286

February, 2008

### **OFFICERS 2007-2008**

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### **Next Meeting:**

Saturday, February 16, 2008, Trinity Lutheran Church, Chelmsford, MA. Doors open 9 am. Check newsletter last page for map and directions.

### **2008 Dues are Due**

Last chance for uninterrupted membership. Send your \$ 12 for individual and \$ 15 for family membership to the treasurer, (address on page 2). **ONLY 2008 DUES PAID MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE A MARCH 2008 NEWSLETTER!**

### **Topical theme selected for the February MMNE meeting**

The meeting topic for the February MMNE meeting program will be "Microminerals of the Palermo Mine, North Groton, NH". See detailed meeting plan on page 2.

### **May meeting speaker secured**

MMNE president Mike Swanson reports that Bill Henderson has volunteered to speak at our annual May gathering. Bill stated that he was pleased to have the opportunity to speak to our group again.

### **Newsletter Editor**

Tom Mortimer  
(603) 673-4039  
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### **MMNE SECRETARIAL REPORT FOR JANUARY 19, 2008**

NOTE: The following minutes were provided from recollection by Joe Mulvey. The plan to record the meeting minutes and forward them to club secretary Bob Wilken for transcription was thwarted by a set of dead batteries.

#### **Minutes from the Micromounters of New England meeting dated January 17, 2008**

Because my digital recorder's batteries died about 20 seconds after the meeting was called to order, I am writing these minutes from limited notes and even more limited memory.

Meeting commenced about 10 am when Michael Swanson called the group to order.

Anna Wilkins has been our Treasurer for quite a while. At some point she inherited the responsibility of overseeing the May Symposium. Last year, Anna was in charge of every aspect dealing with the May symposium, and she has been doing this for several years. It is more than a one person job.

(continued on page 3)

### **Current Meeting**

Saturday, February 16th  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Chelmsford, MA  
Doors open at 9 am

Map and driving  
directions are on page 7

### **Next Meeting**

Saturday March 15th  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Chelmsford, MA

For information regarding  
**MEETING CANCELLATION**  
due to inclement weather,  
contact:

Michael Swanson  
(413) 773-3867  
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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 \$16/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.

#### Officers for 2007-2008

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## 2008 CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

### February 2008

16 – MMNE meeting, Trinity Lutheran Church, doors open at 9 am

### March 2008

2 –Palermo Open House – Meet at the gates at 9am to view the ice formations

15 – MMNE meeting, Trinity Lutheran Church, doors open at 9 am

### April 2008

19– MMNE meeting, Trinity Lutheran Church, doors open at 9 am

### Meeting topic for the February MMNE meeting program

A proposal was put forth at our January MMNE meeting to have a theme topic at several of our monthly MMNE gatherings each year. As this idea was met with a favorable response, the theme for our February meeting will be “Micro-minerals from the Palermo Mine, North Groton, NH.”

To participate in this program theme, members are encouraged to:

1. Bring their Palermo specimens, (known and unknown), to the meeting.
2. Swap and/or Give-away some of your extra Palermo specimens. A designated table will be assigned for member swap offerings and give-aways.
3. Select some of your better, (and perhaps unknown), Palermo specimens for viewing by other members. Small trays and colored stickers will be available for your selected specimens. You might select 5 to 10 Palermo micros from your collection, place them in a tray, and put a small, fluorescent, sticker, (MMNE supplied), on each one with your name. We want to make sure all specimens get back to their rightful owners at the end of the meeting. Members wanting to look at your specimens would take them to their scope for viewing, then return them to the table for others to have a turn.

A short photo projection program is also planned for the February meeting. For this program, 30 to 50 of the best images of Palermo specimens from the mindat.org web site will be viewed. Member comment

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**January 2008 Secretary's report, continued from page 1**

Considering that it is the high point of our club, and the fact that Anna no longer wishes all of this unappreciated hard work, Michael discussed the possibility of a designated person in charge of coordinating.

Anna pointed out that the responsibilities such as hall reservation, caterer, and Symposium speaker all need to be addressed in advance.

Many opinions were heard with the final result being that the President of the Club will be responsible for finding members to accomplish all tasks. At some point we should create a formal list detailing all of the steps that need to be addressed with a time frame for accomplishment.

The motion for the president to assume this responsibility was seconded and accepted by all in attendance, save for Tom Mortimer who pointed out that it is hard enough to find a President let alone add more duties making the position even less appealing.

Additionally, it was revealed that Laslo Horvath would not be able to present at this years' symposium, but would be available for 2009. Happily, Bill Hendersons' offer of several possible talks is still available.

Discussion led to which presentations the club should choose. Gene Bearrs proposed the one hour talk on Microminerals of Italy and the 15 minute presentation on the Minerals of the Palabora Mine in South Africa. Those in attendance seconded these choices.

(A few hours after the meeting, Michael Swanson spoke with Bill to confirm the date)

Discussion led to the possible purchase of a projector. Joe Mulvey pointed out that he would be happy to supply a laptop and projector for the meetings so that if purchasing attention could be focused on a real-time interface to a microscope allowing micro displays on the big screen through the projector.

A lively discussion ensued regarding whose microscope has the third ocular port to allow this camera style interface. Joe said that he would research the feasibility of such an option with our conventional microscopes.

At the close of the meeting it was proposed that the February will center around minerals of the Palermo Mine.

Tom Mortimer pointed out the club has the room at the church until 2pm now.

Tom also mentioned that he brought micro photos to be displayed after the meeting on the laptop and projector.

The meeting adjourned around 11:30 am.

## 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.

