

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. 251

January, 2004

OFFICERS 2002-2003

President

Jim Cahoon
(978) 897-8221
jcahoon@
geochronlabs.com
cahooncj@aol.com

Vice-President

Bob Janules
(603) 424-9269
janules@worldnet.att.net

Treasurer

Anita Hubley
(203) 644-9600
hubley264@cox.net

Secretary

Patricia Barker
(603) 536-2401
barker@eagle1st.com

Directors

Gene Bearss
(207) 324-3610

Bob Wilkin
(603) 744-3717
microxl@highstream.net

Membership

Brian Porter
(860) 666-4505
port0202@cox.net

Editor

Mike Swanson
(413) 773-3867
msmicros@crocker.com

Next Meeting

Saturday, January 10
Burlington, MA Public
Library
10AM - 3PM

Map and directions are on the back page

For information regarding
MEETING CANCELLATION
due to inclement weather,
contact President Jim
Cahoon at
(978) 897-8221 or
cahooncj@aol.com
Page 2

IN MEMORIAM

Charles Henry Weber, Jr.
December 22, 1917 - November 16, 2003

We have lost another of our long time members and friends. Charlie Weber died on November 16, 2003 at the Connecticut Hospice in Branford, CT from the complications of a long standing, slowly progressive cancer. Charlie will always be remembered as a friend and a gentleman. He, as well as his recently departed wife, Marcelle, will be greatly missed by all their friends and fellow collectors. Some of us were only able to get together with them during the Mont St. Hilaire trips, particularly in Room 127 of the Auberge Montagnard, but those times together will be treasured in our memories.

Donations in memory of Charlie and/or Marcelle's may be sent to the Canadian Museum of Nature, P.O. Box 3443 Station D, ATTN Mr. Robert Gault - Confidential, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6P4, Canada.

MMNE Meeting Nov. 22, 2003 Library, Chelmsford, MA

The meeting was called to order at 11:35AM by President Jim Cahoon. Sixteen members were present. We welcomed a new member, Matt Butler, from Woburn, MA. Two visitors from the library came in to see what we were doing and looked at minerals through a scope.

Treasurer Anita Hubley presented a detailed financial statement and reported a balance-on-hand of \$4,206.78 as of March 15, 2003 after we had paid for color fund donations in honor of nine deceased members, made a donation of \$100.00 to the Newry, ME Mineral Park, and received a donation of \$175.00 from Gene Bearss who returned part of his honorarium as the speaker at the May Reunion Meeting in 2002. Club sales of minerals and mineral related items at the May Meeting and during the year at monthly meetings added \$1197.60 to the treasury. Jim Cahoon also reported that the Moose Hall in Marlboro, MA is booked in 2004 for the MMNE and for several years beyond that.

Jim Cahoon received a letter from a member who attends primarily the May Meeting asking that the Club rescind the rule stating that there will be no private sales of minerals or mineral related materials at the May Meeting. Because of this rule there have been no sanctioned private sales at the May Meeting for many years. This rule was instituted because Club members feel that the Club needs the income from the sales tables at the May Meeting to keep itself in the black, and historically members have felt that allowing competition from private sales would compromise the solvency of the Club. After extensive discussions, the membership voted to continue the policy. Gene Bearss pointed out that anyone wishing to sell minerals in the parking lot after the meeting is over is welcome to do that. Minerals are being sold at regular meetings with 20% of the proceeds to the Club.

The **Newsletter** is the official publication of the Micromounters of New England (MMNE). The last by-laws revision occurred on 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 the reproduction of material, 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 and August. Sites rotate 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 \$10/year for a single person and \$15/year for a family membership, levied on a calendar basis. A 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 2002-2003

President: Jim Cahoon, 31 Parker St., Maynard, MA 01754	(978) 897-8221	jcahoon@geochronlabs.com
Vice President: Bob Janules, 17 Woodard Rd., Merrimack, NH 03054	(603) 424-9269	janules@worldnet.att.net
Treasurer: Anita Hubley, 90 Valley View Drive, S. Windsor, CT 06074-2829	(203) 644-9600	hubley264@cox.net
Secretary: Pat Barker, PO Box 810, Campton, NH 03223-0810	(603) 536-2401	barker@eagle1st.com
Directors: (2003-5) Gene Bearss, 33 North Avenue, Sanford, ME 04073-2943	(207) 324-3610	
(2003-4) Bob Wilken, 551 West Shore Road, Bristol, NH 03222	(603) 744-3717	microxl@highstream.net
Membership Chairperson: Brian Porter, 355 Walsh Ave., Newington, CT 06111	(860) 666-4505	port0202@cox.net
Editor: Mike Swanson, 646 Greenfield Rd., Leyden, MA 01301-9400	(413) 773-3867	msmicros@crocker.com

2004 CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Micromounters of the North Shore Rock and Mineral Club meet the 2nd Wednesday of every month at the home of John and Margaret Stewart, 244 Mill Street, Burlington, MA. All members and visitors are welcome. For more information, call John or Margaret at (781) 272-0854.

SHOWS

January

28-2/01 Quartzite Pow-wow, Quartzite, AZ

February

1-15 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show

http://www.tucsonshowguide.com/tsg/show_info.cfm#wr

April

15 - 18 - Rochester Mineralogical Symposium

July

7-12 - EFMLS/AFMS Convention & Show. Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse. State Fairgrounds. Syracuse, NY.

MICROMINERAL RELATED CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIUMS

January

30 - 2/1 - Pacific Coast Micromount Conference. The Southern California Micro-Mineralogists. San Bernardino County Museum, Redlands, CA. Contact: Beverly Moreau: 3113 Topaz Lane, # A, Fullerton, CA, 92831-2374 - (714) 577-8038, bcmoreau@4dnet.com. www.mineralsocal.org/micro/

February

13 - Arthur M. Roe Micromount Conference. Micromount Group of the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society. www.tgms.org/tgms/

20 - 21 - Southeast Micromounters Winter Gathering. Advent Christian Village, Dowling Park, FL. Contact Ed or Martha Cunningham, (386) 658-2589, edmarc@atlantic.net. www.home.earthlink.net/~earlrock/wintermicro/index.html

March

20 - MMNE Meeting - Auburn, MA Public Library

April

2-4 - 32nd Annual Atlantic Micromounters Conference. Tyson's Westpark Hotel, McLean, VA. Info & Registration: Steve Weinberger, cweinber@bcpl.net.

REMINDER

Memberships must be renewed on or before January 1, 2004. Anyone who has not renewed prior to the mailing date

LOCALITY DATA SHEETS

The members of the South African Micromount Society (SAMS) over the past fifteen years have been creating "Locality Data Sheets" which document their finds various collecting sites. The following commentary is extracted from an article by Horst Windisch in the most recent issue of the International Micromounters Journal. This data sheet was developed partly for posterity, but mainly to broaden the collector's knowledge of the species which could be found at a given site. Various club members were either asked or volunteered to compile sheets for a specific locality. These would then be circulated among the membership both to provide information and to get further input from other members as to the minerals found, any pertinent recommendations for collecting areas within the site, and for references from the literature. These sheets can be revised at any stage because of new species finds, discrediting of previous finds, etc. The "collected" column has been used to identify species found by participating members, where as the "literature" column refers to species reported in the literature but not collected by the participants. Unknowns are not listed. This data sheet has evolved over the years, and a recent copy of it as used for a particular site is enclosed for your perusal and comments.

This data collection system might be very beneficial for documenting various sites which our membership is likely to visit, and to perk up interest in a site or sites which someone had not previously visited. It could also form the backbone for topical club meetings in which information and specimens are shared. These sheets could be readily updated and shared through the Newsletter to members.

These data sheets are readily amenable to alteration to meet the needs of the collector and the recipient of the information. Some thoughts as to additions or alterations are as follows:

- 1) Addition of unknowns, with a spot for a description;
- 2) Comments relative to particular spots within the collecting site such as environment (eg MSH hornfels) or "northwest corner or the quarry" would be invaluable to the field collector;
- 3) Mode of identification: sight, chemical testing, optical evaluation, outside lab work, etc.;
- 4) Description of the species and associations, particularly if unusual;
- 5) Name of collector who has found some of the material;
- 6) References from the literature regarding the site, which if not readily available could be reproduced in the Newsletter.
- 7) Directions to the site, access info (? Permission, etc.)

If this type of a project sounds interesting to anyone, please let me know if you are interested in pursuing it. If you have a site which you think is either worth collating information on, or which you would like to get more information on, please let me know. We can talk about this at the next meeting (in January).

A couple of sites which might be worthwhile putting into data sheet formats:

- 1) Hardwick, MA Shaft 10
- 2) Lane Quarry, Northfield, MA
- 3) Mt. Tom Quarry, Holyoke, MA
- 4) Manhan River (Loudville) Lead Mine, Southampton, MA (This could be a pretty big job but a lot of fun.)
- 5) Mascot Mine, NH
- 6) Various Maine and New Hampshire quarries
- 7) Conway Granite areas.
- 8) Thomaston Dam, CT
- 9) Putney, VT road cut, Rte 5

A MICROMOUNTER EXPLORES NEW HAMPSHIRE'S CONWAY GRANITE

By Bob Janules

INTRODUCTION: THE AUTHOR BECOMES A MICROMOUNTER

I was always interested in science. I was one of those nerdy kids who had a chemistry set and looked at pond water under the microscope. I did this not because I had to. I did it for fun. I also became interested in minerals at an early age. My family owns a cabin in Pittsburg, NH, and one day the dirt road leading to it received many loads of gravel. Within the gravel stones I discovered many dark cubes with brassy interiors. I was fascinated with the perfection of the crystal cubes. Driving back home from Pittsburg, we stopped at a rock shop in Whitefield, the Rockhaven Mineral Company. My mystery mineral was identified as pyrite, and I became hooked on the hobby.

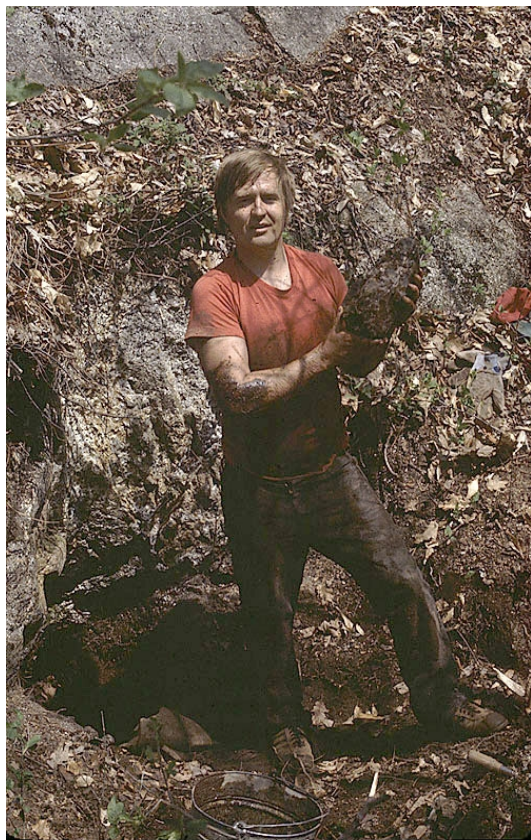
I subscribed to Rocks and Minerals magazine and read a couple books on the hobby by John Sinkankas, acquired specimens by silver pick through the Rockhaven shop. At that time I was not old enough to drive. I didn't think to join a club and therefore did no field collecting. My only trip to a quarry was when my sister once took me to the Ruggles mine. I found a few pieces of beryl, a little autunite and a few things I couldn't at that time identify.

My interest in minerals became dormant as I grew older and became involved with work, marriage and fatherhood. I picked up the hobby again in the late 1970s at about the age of thirty. I was living in Lee, New Hampshire at the time and my favorite collecting spots at the time were the nearby Chandler quarry in Raymond and the Parker Mountain mine in Center Strafford. In one of his books John Sinkankas suggested that specializing in the hobby is the best way to achieve a collection with scientific value. That made sense to me, and I decided my specialty would be rare pegmatite minerals. I had once read triphylite as being described as a rare mineral. I was disappointed that I had not as of yet found any specimens of that mineral at the Parker Mt. Mine. I met a collector who suggested I go to the Palermo mine in North Groton where "one could fill a railcar" with the triphylite from the dumps.

I became interested in microminerals during my first trip to the Palermo mine. I was trying to fit a railcar's worth of triphylite in my car when Bob Whitmore, the owner of the mine arrived. He was with one or two other collectors and I watched them as they examined some newly blasted rock. At one point, after examining a cavity in quartz with their loupes, they became excited. Bob suggested setting this piece to the side saying "it might be something new." I wondered if he meant new to the quarry, maybe new to New Hampshire, or even new to science. I wanted my collection to be to have scientific value and not be just an assortment of pretty things. I saw the process of scientific discovery taking place at the Palermo, and I saw it as the most exciting aspect of the hobby. This endeavor was in sharp contrast with the mindset of the next collector to arrive at the quarry that day. This individual was visibly upset when asked to pay the two dollar admission fee that Bob requested. At the time the money collected helped defray insurance costs that Bob had to pay. "I can find much more beryl at the Beuregard Mine than I can here," the man snorted. I had to concur when one of Bob's collecting friends later described the man as being "arrogant in his ignorance." To limit the treasures to be found at Palermo including many rare minerals to one common species was truly tunnel vision to the extreme. Soon after my trip to Palermo I bought a loupe and began collecting the micro species from that site. Years later, I found the box of specimens that I had collected from the Ruggles Mine in my youth. In that box, ironically, was a chunk of triphylite.

When I visited Conway granite localities at that time my goal was cabinet specimens of smoky quartz and microcline, but I also examined the small miarolitic vugs with my loupe. At some sites I found suites of interesting, beautiful and exotic micro minerals. While New Hampshire localities with micro phosphates were being studied, the accessory minerals of Conway granite were largely ignored both by collectors and professional mineralogists. With such virgin territory at my disposal I became involved in the discovery process along with other collectors, most notably Gene Bearss and Scott Whittemore. My collecting specialty was eventually switched to the Conway granite the minerals. Scott, Gene and I were able to write comprehensive articles in Rocks and Minerals on the North Sugarloaf Mt. and Government Pit localities. An article on the Oliver Trench site on Moat Mt. will hopefully be

(continued on page 6)



(Conway Granite, continued from page 5)

forthcoming. We haven't found any minerals new to science (yet), but we were able to add significantly to the New Hampshire verified species list. This still leaves many localities whose mineralogy needs to be put down in writing. What I intend to do in the upcoming months (years?) is write in this bulletin about the Conway granite localities I've been to with descriptive mineralogy and collecting stories as well. Those who receive the bulletin on line will be treated with mineral photos in color. I hope that you will find the tour of Conway granite to be of interest.

(On the left, the author and a large quartz crystal from a pocket on Table Mountain, Bartlett, New Hampshire)

(Minutes, continued from page 1)

Gordon Jackson said that next year the Capitol Club Show would advertise a "Micromount Meeting and Swap" at the Sunapee Show. This generous offer to increase interest in micromounting was accepted with thanks.

The subject of Club insurance came up again. We have approximately 77 dues paying or life members. Many of them only want to receive our excellent bulletin, and never come to any meetings, not even the May Meeting. Since the Club charge for insurance is based on the number of members, we would have to create a special category for persons who only want to subscribe to the *Newsletter*. After some discussion it was decided to keep all members under the insurance coverage.

Members who attended on Nov. 22 want to thank Edna Lerer for the mounted topaz specimens with hairs and circles of boulangerite (?).

We wish to thank Norm Biggart for keeping the attendance list each month. We also wish to thank Margaret Stewart for keeping the refreshment supplies and carrying these boxes and the coffeepot to every meeting for years and years. Also thanks for bringing veggies and dip or some "treat." No one has offered to take over this task, so Pat Barker said she would provide coffee at the meetings when she is able to attend. Perhaps some other member will offer to take over refreshment duty? **We need other members to bring snacks to the meetings.**

Janet Cares called attention to errors in the Secretary's "unpublished minutes" in the Nov. Bulletin. The May Reunion speaker in 1987, who spoke on organizing mineral collections with the computer, was Dr. Frank Mandarino. One of the new minerals in 1988 included wendwilsonite not benwilsonite. Perhaps this points up how important it is to have a published Secretary's report. Unfortunately for many years, while there may have been oral reports, there is no record except when Norm Biggart or John Anderson acted as secretaries pro tem.

The business meeting was adjourned at 12:30. Respectfully submitted, Patricia Barker. Secretary

MicroMounters of New England

Membership Renewal Form

2004 Dues

Individual Membership **\$10.00**

Family Membership **\$15.00**

**(All Family members have to reside at the same address and
only one copy of the newsletter)**

**Please make checks out to MMNE and mail them to the
Membership Chairperson:**

Brian Porter
355 Walsh Ave
Newington, CT 06111-3542

Name(s): _____

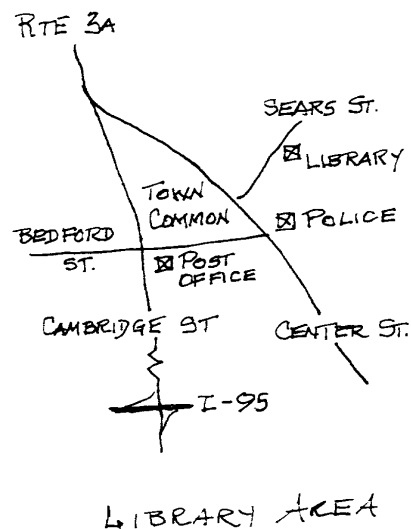
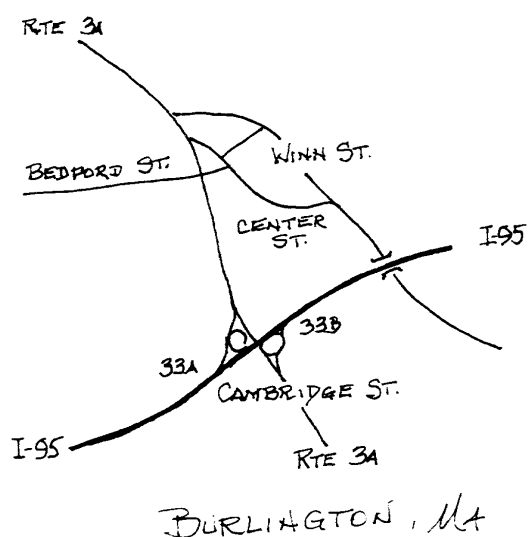
Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail: _____



Directions to the Burlington, MA Public Library: From I-91 take exit 33A, Cambridge Street, and head north approximately one (1) mile to the U.S. Post Office. Go past the Post Office and take a right beside the Town Common onto Bedford Street. Turn left from Bedford Street onto Center Street, continuing past the Police Station to Sears Street. Take a right onto Sears Street. The library is on the right. The doors open at 10AM.

Michael W. Swanson, Editor
 Micromounters of New England Newsletter
 646 Greenfield Road
 Leyden, MA 01301-9400