

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. 276

January, 2007

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Current Meeting

Saturday, January 20th
Burlington, MA library
Doors open at 10 am

Map and driving
directions are on page 9

Next Meeting

Saturday, February 17th
Location to be announced

For information regarding
MEETING CANCELLATION
due to inclement weather,
contact:
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MMNE secretarial report for 11/18/2006

The November meeting of Micromounters of New England came to order at 12 noon with thirteen members in attendance. There was no secretarial report for October due to the lack of a quorum at that meeting. Anna Wilken gave the Treasurer's report and those present approved it. She noted that the principal recent expenses included payment for the club's insurance to Ladd's Agency and reimbursement to Mike Swanson for newsletter expenses.

Jim Nizamoff has agreed to be the speaker for the May 2007 Meeting, providing it does not conflict with the Maine Pegmatite Camp Symposium. Although certain members were confident it would not, President Tom Mortimer said he would follow up on the matter.

Mike Swanson wondered whether a second speaker might also be included to talk about the history of Palermo. Other members appeared to prefer maintaining the morning free for social time, looking at giveaways and perusing the sales table.

Anna Wilken confirmed that the Hudson, MA Elks Hall has been reserved by Jim Cahoon. When queried about the caterer, she indicated that she would arrange that later in January or February.

Joe Mulvey asked if there would be another trip to Palermo for the day following the May Meeting. The consensus was that this would not be determined until the spring.

Gene Bearss encouraged all members to prepare and to contribute "fantastic", high quality door prizes and sales items for the May Meeting.

Norm Biggart said he would request the monthly meeting dates for the Chelmsford, MA Library for January through April for the third Saturday of each month.

Tom Mortimer adjourned the meeting at 12:12 PM

Respectfully submitted
Bob Wilken, Secretary

*Note from the editor: the January meeting will be held at the Burlington Public Library, Saturday January 20th at **10 am**, and the February meeting likely at the Billerica Public library.*

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 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 \$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.

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2007 CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

January 2007

20 – MMNE meeting, Burlington, MA Public Library, 10am-3pm (Map and directions on page 8)

February 2007

8-11 – Tucson Mineral Show – Main Show Thu/Fri/Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5 <http://www.tgms.org>

17 – MMNE meeting, place to be announced (Billerica Public Library?)

24-25 – 14th Annual Show; NY State Academy of Min., Fri/Sat 10-5, NY State Museum, Empire State Plaza, Madison Ave, Albany; admission \$6; Mike Hawkins, (518) 486-2011

March 2007

3-4 – Spring show; NY Mineralogical Club; Holiday Inn-Midtown, 440 W. 57 St. New York; Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5; admission \$6; www.excaliburmineral.com.

17 – MMNE meeting, place to be announced

24-25 – Old Westbury, NY: 35th annual show; Island Rock Hounds; Old Westbury High School, Post Rd. Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; admission \$4.50; Nancy Colburn, (516) 334-4398; nileda55@yahoo.com.

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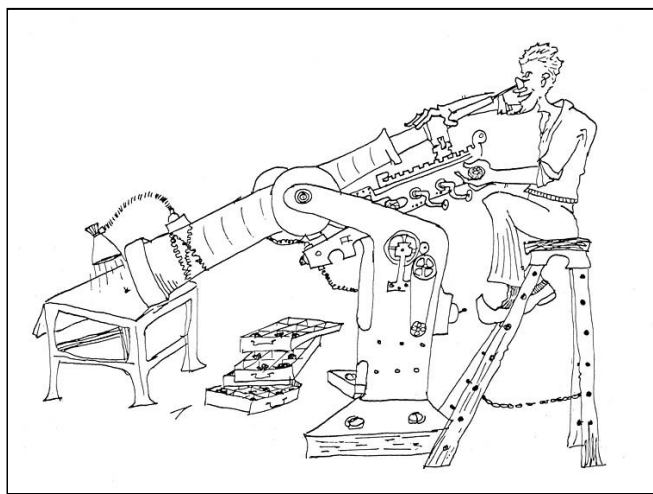
Page 9 – Map and directions to Burlington, MA Public Library

30 years ago (1976) with the MMNE

by John Anderson

30 years ago, the country was celebrating the 200th year of independence, and the Micromounters of New England were functioning as they do today. Newsletter #29 was dated January 23, 1976, and the last issue, dated November 8, 1976, was Newsletter #33. The meetings for the year were held at the 4-H Center in Ashland, Keene State College, Boston University, the Cares' (Caresite) home in Sudbury, and Boston University, again. Cleaves Dodge set up the Keene meeting, and John Stuart arranged the B.U. meeting. The MMNE President in 1976 was John Anderson (Walpole, MA), and dues were \$4.00 a year. Other activities included participation in the Sunapee Show, in August; the Eastern Federation Show, in Topsfield; and the annual meeting/picnic at the Reiner's home in Moultonboro, NH. John and Martha Reiner lived on beautiful Long Island, which was situated at the end of Moultonboro Neck in Lake Winnepesaukee. This was a great place to swim on a hot day, especially if you'd been collecting at Palermo. Micromounting was an active part of mineral collecting then, with regular articles by Neil Yedlin, in *The Mineralogical Record*; and MMNE member John Reiner, in *Rocks and Minerals*. Active collecting at Moat Mountain (NH) was in progress. Good Arfvedsonite was being found at Hurricane Mountain, NH. In the May-June issue of the MR, Yedlin thanks John Oliver (Intervale, NH) for sending him a recently found Milarite from Moat. Milarite from Moat has always been a prize - how many of you have one? I still don't. John and nearby friend Bill Ross always had a supply of Moat minerals for sale, many collected by Pete Samuelson (Samuelsonite). Bob Whitmore (Whitmoreite) and Forrest Fogg (Foggite) were MMNE members and friends who owned the Palermo Mine, in N. Groton, NH. Yedlin would always close his article by saying "buy and use a good mineral book". The

active Rhode Island field collectors of the day were George Chestnut, Carl Caldarera, and Gil George. These guys were very busy and at the top of the micromounting hobby. Gil was not impressed by the number of books in your library, but how worn they were from being used - a very good observation. It was quite something to hear them and Steve Cares talk about St. Hilaire, Francon, and Palermo. As mentioned, the Eastern Federation Show was in Topsfield. The June issue of *Rocks and Minerals* was devoted to New England articles, including ones by MMNE members Pat Barker, Jim Taparowsky, Palmer Sevens, and John Reiner. It's a nice collector's issue, especially when the authors signed their respective article. Reiner's article in that issue spoke of Babingtonite, from Massachusetts and the



Manhan Lead Mine, in Easthampton. How many Massachusetts Babingtonite localities are represented in your collection? Micro Babingtonite from Massachusetts in my collection are from Deerfield, Hardwick, Peabody, Reading, W. Roxbury, W. Springfield/Westfield, and Woburn. How much has changed in thirty years. Many of these friends are no longer with us. Many of the collecting areas have suffered the same demise. The MMNE is still active, much as it was in 1976. Where will it all be in 2036? Some one else will have to make that observation.

Happy New Year!!

The evolution and validation of mineral species

- a short but incomplete discussion

by Norman Biggart

To attempt to get all of the most important and publicly used documents for a discussion like this is impossibility. I will let the reader make their own judgment as to whether this paper is reasonably successful. Here is a listing of highly definitive publications that are known to me. I will not attempt to list the optical, crystallographic and X-ray research, but hope there is some reader out there who will attempt to offer a discussion of how those subjects fit into the intention of this article.

Elderhorst's manual of quantitative blow-pipe analysis and determinative mineralogy, edited by H. B. Nason and C. F. Chandler, fourth edition, 1874.

Identification of qualitative chemical analysis of minerals, O. C. Smith, 1946

Handbook of Chemistry and Physics, 30th edition, Chemical Rubber Publishing Co., 1947

Systematic Mineralogy of Uranium and Thorium, C. Frondell, Geological Survey Bulletin 1064, 1958

Classification of Carbonate Rocks – a Symposium, edited by W. E. Ham, 1962

An index of Mineral Species and Varieties – Arranged Chemically, M. Hey, 1962

Appendix to the 2nd edition of I.M.S.&V., M. Hey, 1963

Glossary of Uranium and Thorium-bearing Minerals, fourth edition, Geological Survey Bulletin 1250, J. Frondell, M. Fleisher, R. Jones, 1967

A dictionary of Mining, Mineral, and Related Terms, Bureau of Mines, P. V. Trush, ed., 1968

Glossary of Mineral Species, M. Fleisher, 1971, reedited by M. Fleisher then by J. A. Mandarino. The last edition (9th) is the Fleisher's Glossary of Mineral Species, by J. A. Mandarino and M. Back, 2004.

Appendix to the 2nd edition of I.M.S. & V., M. Hey & P. Embry, 1974

Glossary of Mineral Species, 5th edition, M. Fleisher & J. A. Mandarino 1991, reedited in 1995

Glossary of Mineral Species, 5th edition, M. Fleisher & J. A. Mandarino 1991, reedited in 1995

When you start as an amateur collector and continue for many years to slowly assimilate some of the vast store of knowledge about minerals, you realize that you will never know all but you have obtained a great respect for those who have approached the subject through academic and serious research. I realize my offering here is no more than an attempt to give others an understanding of the slow progress of our knowledge of the mineral world.

The first listing I've given you (1874) of Blow Pipe Analysis has to be an outgrowth of Alchemy when it was started in the Middle Ages and was considered a black art. Because some chemical analysis may still be done and is at time done this way, it is only a rough approach to learn what may be in a mineral sample being examined. The next dated publication (1946) about Qualitative Chemical Analysis also relates to the next item, Handbook of Chemistry & Physics which shows by its 30th year designation that chemical analysis started to be published much earlier in 1914, which is their earliest claim to copyrighting. [Note from the editor: for those interested, the 87th edition of the Handbook is now available online at <http://www.hbcnetbase.com>] Over many years, many persons have obtained a Doctorate in research of the geologic world and they were able to enlarge the scope of our geologic world. That will tell you today a newly anointed Doctorate knows what is available to him, he has the ability to bring about new and extremely important discoveries.

Next come (1958 and 1962) Systematic Mineralogy of Uranium and Thorium and the Classification of Carbonate Rocks. These two are only representative when one is talking about unified research reporting. Up to this time, many papers and books have been presented to the workers in this field. These two are good examples of offering definitive recent and prior research of allied data. These writings now become handbooks and guides for the serious researcher. We now come to (1962 and 1963) Index of Mineral Species and Varieties by Max Hey. He gave the world a compendium of minerals in his publications. They were generally accepted names, local names and discredited names. This helped the museum to put their collections in order. A short time later (1967) came the Glossary of Uranium and Thorium-Bearing Minerals 4th edition by Judith Frondell, Michael Fleisher and Robert Jones. This came at a time when radioactive minerals were being sought. In (1968), the Bureau of Mines published a fresh look at a broad range of names with their "dictionary of mining, minerals, and related terms" edited by Paul W Thrush. This showed that the government felt the need to bring the mineral names into the mining industry in order to coordinate minerals and the miners papers for the good of all. In (1971), Michael Fleisher who had been presenting list of discredited mineral names, then published his first Glossary of Mineral Species. His publication was continued for twenty four more years after he died. Joseph A. Mandarino who had entered the glossary field in 1991 was a member of the International Mineral Association Commission, and continued to work with the Glossary after Michael Fleisher died and now he is the only editor of the Glossary. In (1974) an updating of Max Hey's earlier work was presented thanks to Peter Embry's assistance. This showed that the growing mineral names list was still discrediting more names because of increasing new technical innovations to physical and chemical research methods.

I have given no research into either optical, crystallographic or x-ray diffraction, although those subjects were simultaneously going on and helped to further identify, validate and change names of minerals.

This commentary is in no way intended to disturb the amateur collector as there are several good and relatively easy methods available to help identify his or her finds. The most prevalent minerals everywhere are calcites, micas, quartz, feldspar, black tourmaline, apatites, and pyrites. This is by no means a complete list but will offer the amateur an opportunity to start collecting and also make for relatively easy identification. The following are steps that the beginner may take to narrow down the identification from the hundreds of possibilities.

Streak test – a streak plate may be obtained inexpensively and carried in the field. Most mineral field books give the color of the streak.

Hardness test – a set of mineral samples of the ten stages of hardness can also be obtained either by purchase from a mineral dealer or asking your mineral collecting friends.

Crystal form – charts of crystal shapes can be sought for carrying into the field.

Color – although mineral books frequently give colors of minerals, the color is not definitive but only a possible help. Too many minerals can have several colors or none at all.

Gravity – a laboratory test, but the heft of a raw mineral in the field can be a clue to some of the heavier minerals and possibly lighter ones too.

Acid – beginners might use very mild acid like acetic but better to get advice on the subject first.

Optical – a laboratory test.

X-ray diffraction – a laboratory test.

Solubility – a laboratory test but some of them might be tried by the amateur collector.

Small mineral handbooks with hardness, color, scratch, gravity, crystal form and other data can be carried into the field.

Report for Micromounters of New England 2006: General Statistics

January 1, 2006 – December 30, 2006

Summary

Hits

Total Hits	50,529
Average Hits per Day	138
Average Hits per Visitor	5.08
Cached Requests	4,731
Failed Requests	6,256

Page Views

Total Page Views	11,521
Average Page Views per Day	31
Average Page Views per Visitor	1.16

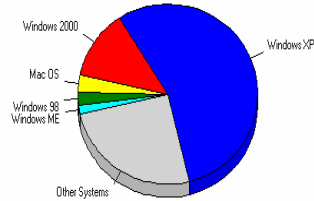
Visitors

Total Visitors	9,940
Average Visitors per Day	27
Total Unique IPs	2,505

Bandwidth

Total Bandwidth	4.90 GB
Average Bandwidth per Day	13.76 MB
Average Bandwidth per Hit	101.78 KB
Average Bandwidth per Visitor	517.38 KB

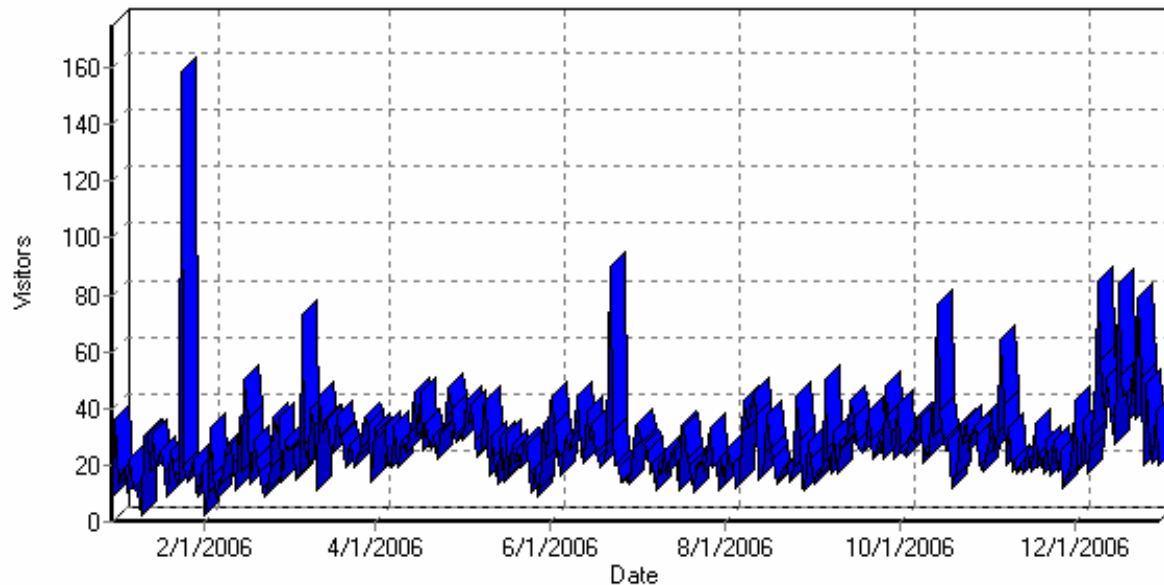
Most Used Operating Systems



Operating System Hits

	Visitors	% of Total	Visitors
1 Windows XP	32,628	1,869	55.15%
2 Others	1,684	696	20.54%
3 Windows 2000	2,569	423	12.48%
4 Mac OS	1,449	105	3.10%
5 Windows 98	689	77	2.27%
6 Windows ME	379	56	1.65%
7 Windows Vista	48	48	1.42%
8 Windows NT	94	42	1.24%
9 Linux	86	27	0.80%
10 Windows 95	62	25	0.74%
11 Windows Server 2003	81	13	0.38%
12 Windows Win32s	40	8	0.24%
Total	39,809	3,389	100.00%

Daily Visitors



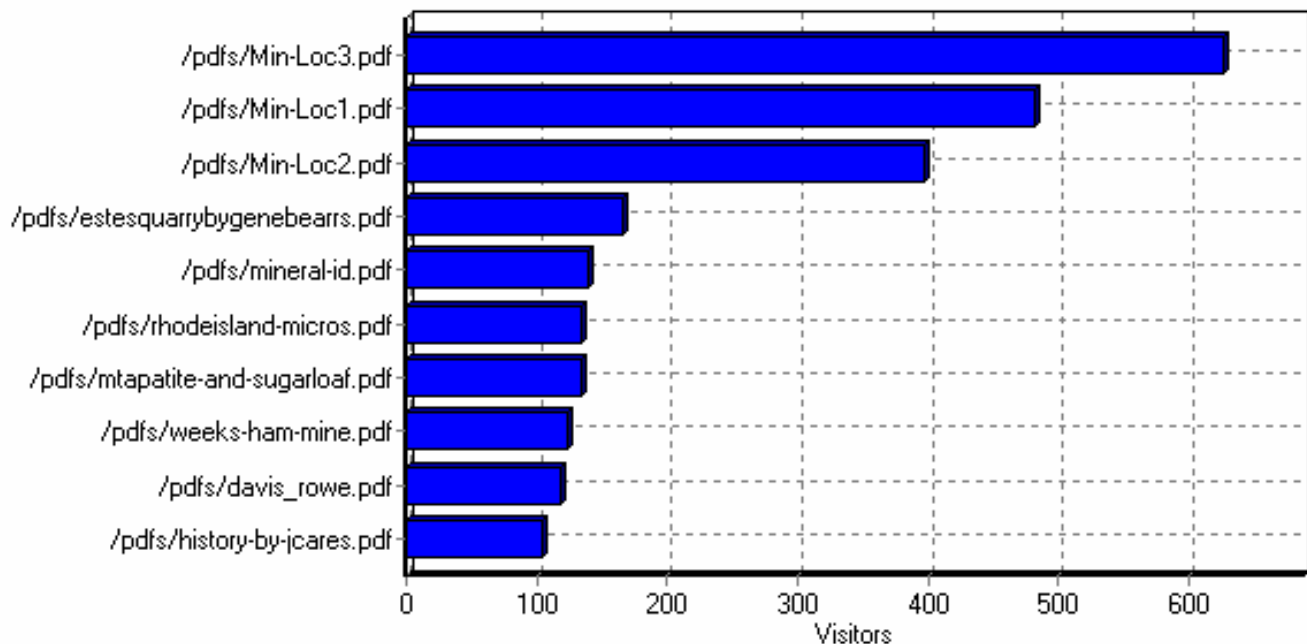
Report for Micromounters of New England 2006: General Statistics

January 1, 2006 – December 30, 2006

Most Popular Pages

	Page Hits	Visitors	Bandwidth (KB)
1 http://micromountersofnewengland.org/	1,859	1,569	16,112
2 http://micromountersofnewengland.org/links.htm	538	488	4,862
3 http://micromountersofnewengland.org/index.html	507	461	5,415
4 http://micromountersofnewengland.org/articles.htm	500	440	3,385
5 http://micromountersofnewengland.org/photos.htm	380	364	1,251
6 http://micromountersofnewengland.org/calendar.htm	376	357	2,903
7 http://micromountersofnewengland.org/meetings.htm	292	285	1,155
8 http://micromountersofnewengland.org/pics/palermo/	290	268	1,000
9 http://micromountersofnewengland.org/hall-of-fame.htm	239	233	3,791
10 http://micromountersofnewengland.org/msh.htm	231	221	570
11 http://micromountersofnewengland.org/pics/GeneBearrs/	236	220	321
12 http://micromountersofnewengland.org/directions.htm	204	189	830
13 http://micromountersofnewengland.org/pics/Palermo-030506/	181	167	782
14 http://micromountersofnewengland.org/members/	204	147	8,638
15 http://micromountersofnewengland.org/pics/GeneBearrs/pages/eosphorite-estes-bearrs.jpg.htm	137	135	81

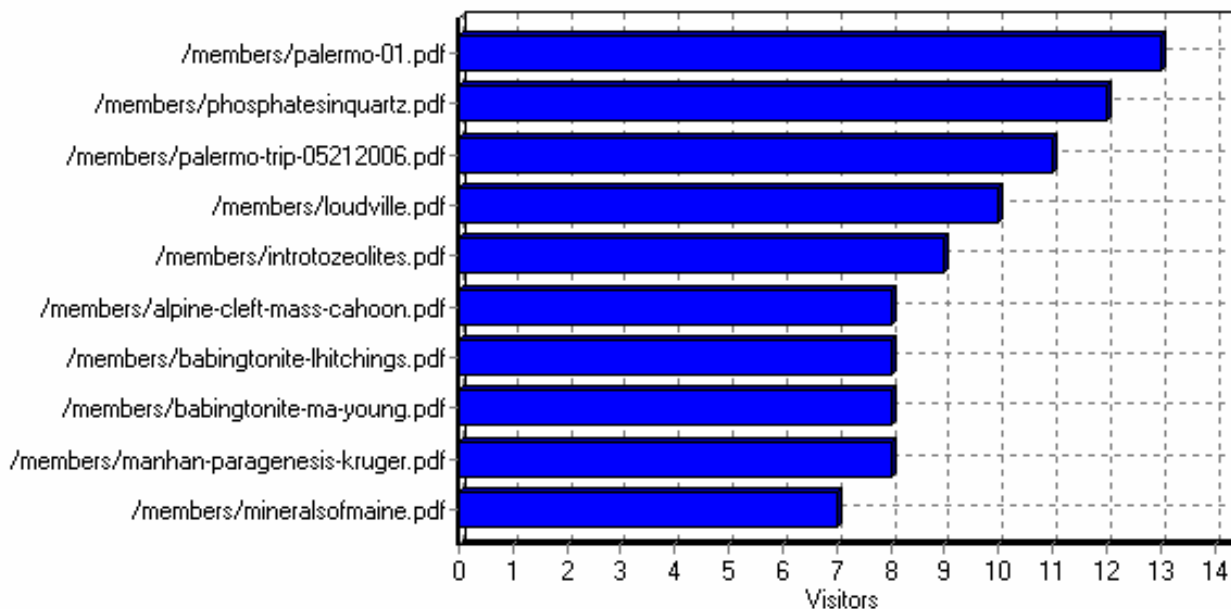
Most Downloaded Files for 2006



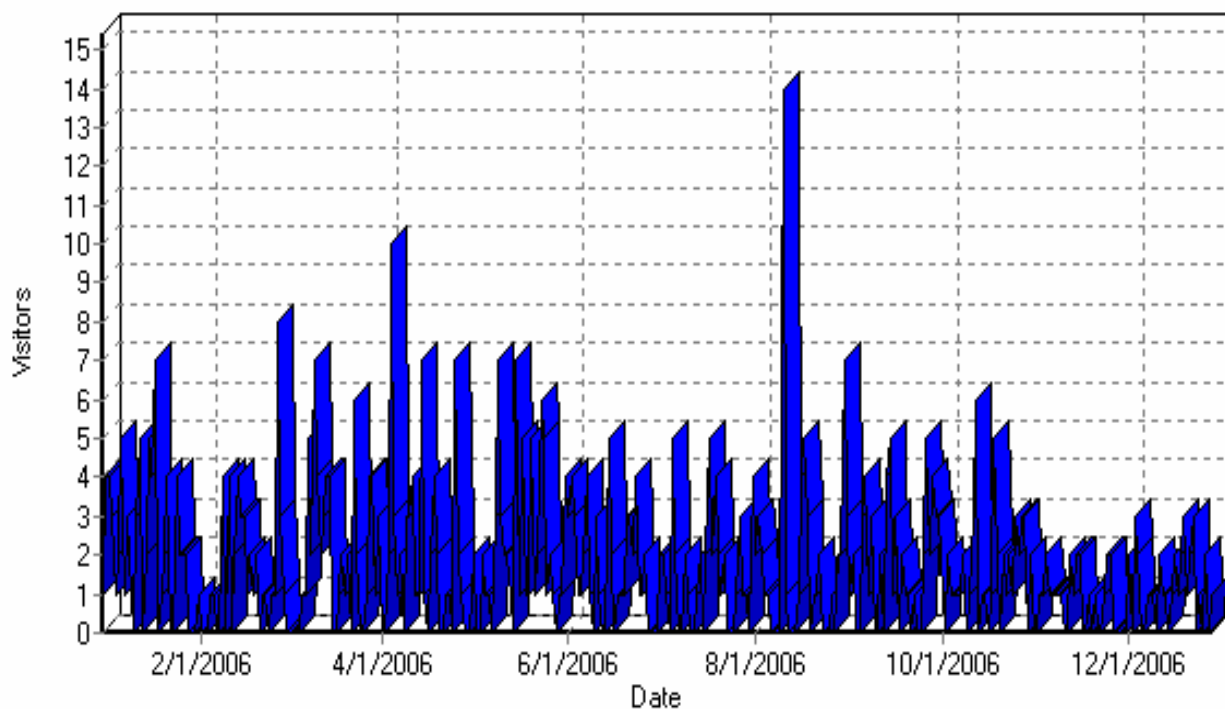
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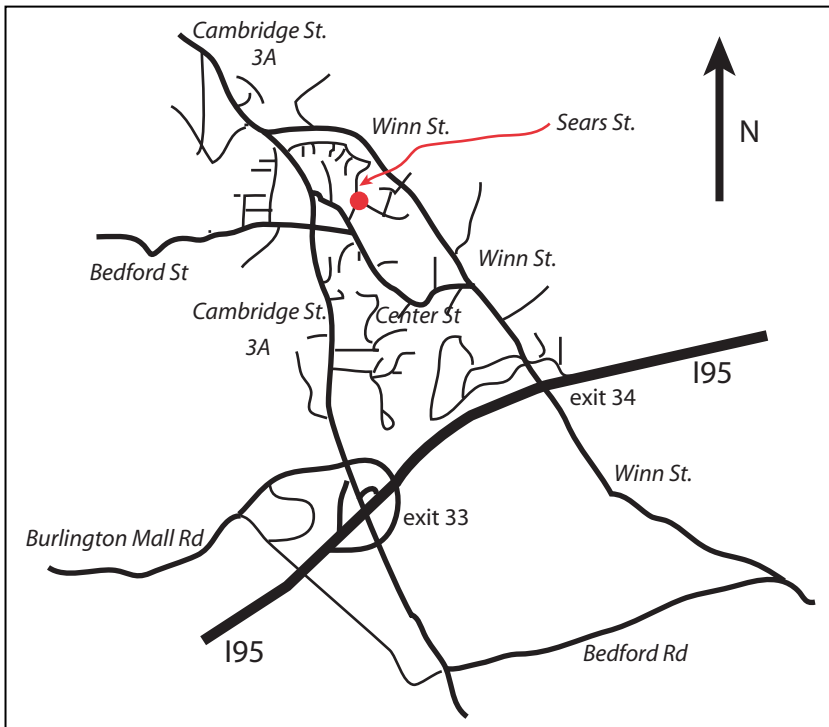
January 1, 2006 – December 30, 2006

Member's Only Area Web Statistics – Most Downloaded Files



Member's Only Area Web Statistics – Daily Visitors to Members' Pages





DIRECTIONS TO BURLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Burlington Public Library is located at 22 Sears Street, just off the Town Common beside the Police Station. The Common is bordered on the west by Cambridge Street (Route 3A) in Burlington.

To get to the Library, take Route 128 (I-95) north or south to Exit 33, and turn at the end of the ramp onto Rte. 3A north. Pass 2 traffic lights, and turn right at the third traffic light onto Bedford Street. Take your first left onto Center Street and the first right after that onto Sears Street, just past the beige clapboard Police Station. The Library is a modern brick structure with parking available on three sides of the building.

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