

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. 293

January, 2009

OFFICERS 2008-2009

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Current Meeting

Saturday, Jan. 17 2009
Trinity Lutheran Church
Chelmsford, MA
Doors open at 9 am

Next Meeting

Saturday, Feb 21, 2009
Trinity Lutheran Church
Chelmsford, MA

Map and driving
directions are on last
page

For information regarding
MEETING CANCELLATION
due to inclement weather,
Joseph Mulvey
(603) 880-4018
bassmeister_2000@yahoo.com

Next Meeting: Saturday, January 17, 2009. Trinity Lutheran Church Chelmsford, MA.

Program theme: "New Hampshire Phosphates Other than Palermo".

Members are also encouraged to bring in specimens for the "The Best of 2008" and "The Best of Previous Years" competitions, (see November 2008 secretarial report below). President Joe Mulvey has recently acquired a digital microscope camera for the club. Joe will demonstrate the camera at the January meeting. The plan is to capture images of some of the specimen competition entries and project them to the big screen for all to view.

"It is time to renew your membership for the year 2009. Please send your dues and any changes in address, phone or e-mail to the treasurer: Anna Wilken, 79 Meadow Lane, Campton, NH 03223. Dues for individual members are \$ 12 and \$ 15 for family membership."

Bylaws. President Joe Mulvey has transcribed our club bylaws to electronic format. The updated bylaws are included in this newsletter issue. Please review them in preparation for the January meeting.

MICROMOUNTERS OF NEW ENGLAND MINUTES OF NOV. 15, 2008

Bob Wilken Secretary

President Joe Mulvey began the November meeting with an attempt to ascertain from members present the preferred criteria for the intra-club "best micro" competition that was suggested during the October meeting. The first competition would take place at the January meeting. Discussion was lively and many had a say in the matter.

Some members first suggested very specific localities for the competition. As others joined in there was an evolution of thought that led everyone to the conclusion that more broad-based localities would encourage greater participation.

When Jim Warner questioned whether "classic" mounting techniques were to be considered as part of the judging criteria many felt that this would be too restrictive. Several members said that they never or rarely used the standard micro box or balsa for mounting. Mike Swanson pointedly stated that the event should not be about "the prettiest mount". In the end all seemed to concur that the quality of the specimen was of paramount importance rather than the mounting of it.

Even the matter of whether the "competition" would in deed be a "competition" or a "show and tell" came into question. Gordon Jackson suggested that the best specimens could be posted to the club website. These could be accumulated there during similar future events.

Continued next page

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 \$15/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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November 15 2009 meeting minutes, continued from page 1

For January the first “Theme” is: “New Hampshire Phosphates Other than Palermo”. There are two “Categories”: 1. “The Best of 2008” and 2. “The Best of Previous Years”.

Anna Wilken said she was prepared to accept dues for the 2009 calendar year.

The particulars regarding the annual May Meeting were announced. Hal Herard announced the 2009 meeting would take place in Auburn, MA at the Chestnut P. Tuttle Post of the American Legion on Bancroft Street on Saturday, May 16. The venue is to be available from 8 AM to 5 PM. Les Horvath will make a presentation on the minerals of Mont St. Hilaire. Hal said that the meal would cost \$12.95 and that the caterer could be flexible... serving either Italian or barbecue style menus

Tom Mortimer suggested that the club might make a “good will” donation to Trinity Lutheran Church, in consideration of the low rent that the church charges for the club’s monthly meeting place. The donation’s amount was determined in the course of brief discussion. A vote was held with no dissent. The donation would be sent at the end of January and it would carry the implication of commitment to remain at the church.

Joe said he would order the club’s new digital camera prior to January. He also said he would compile all the Executive Committee recommendations having to do with the club’s bylaws by January.

Joe added that the “Club Brochure” had been posted to the website. He felt it was important to make copies of it for the upcoming Wooster Gem and Mineral Show. Members chimed in that copies should also go to the Rochester and Maine Symposiums as well. There was a brief exchange regarding the preference for “color” or “black and white”. Joe pointed out that brochures could be printed out either way from the website but that he could do “black and white” in quantity for free. Gordon Jackson said that even poster-sized versions of the brochure could easily be made.

Joe brought it to the attention of members that there was a Palermo video available on YouTube.com He also said he had made a power point presentation of one hundred slides of New Hampshire minerals and turned it into a video “movie” and posted this to YouTube.

Before Joe closed the meeting he extended a thank you to Gene Bearss for providing the coffee.

Meeting Manners - an Editorial by Tom Mortimer

As editor of your newsletter, I believe I am entitled to “editorialize” from time to time.

My editorial issue is “Business Meeting Manners. I have been disturbed by the lack of attention that occurs too frequently during the business segment of our monthly meetings. It is obvious to me that our club president, Joe Mulvey, expends a substantial effort to conduct our business meetings with a carefully prepared list of topics, using well prepared notes. We owe Joe, and our fellow club members, our undivided attention during the business meeting. Remember, our business meetings are recorded, so our secretary in absentia, Bob Wilken, can transcribe them for our newsletter. A high level of background conversations greatly complicates Bob’s task. No one enjoys a long, protracted, business meeting. I am not suggesting that our meetings be dry, boring, and totally without levity. We belong to the Micromounters to have fun! When we are all focused on the meeting agenda, the formal part of our monthly gathering will go smoothly and efficiently, allowing all to return to their microscopes, socializing, and refreshments in short order.

Every Newsletter issue should have a least one photo, preferably of a micro specimen. Please send your photos to the editor, (tjmort@comcast.net), for inclusion in future Newsletter issues.



The photo above is of a 1 mm Wulfenite crystal collected by Gene Bearss from the Mineral Hill locality, Wakefield, NH
(Tom Mortimer specimen and photo)

Micromounters of New England

Constitution and Bylaws

Updated November 28, 2008

Article 1

Section 1.

The name of this organization shall be the Micromounters of New England hereafter referred to as "MMNE".

Section 2.

The MMNE is organized to promote the study of minerals which require the use of magnification for better study and appreciation of their characteristics.

Section 3.

No member shall receive compensation for the performance of his/her duties as an elected officer of the MMNE.

Article 2.

Membership.

Section 1.

"Members in good standing" are those persons who have been granted membership in the MMNE and are not in arrears in the payment of their dues. Hereafter the terms "member or members" shall be synonymous with the term "member in good standing of the Micromounters of New England."

Section 2.

All persons of the age of 19 or over who are interested in the study of minerals, especially minerals which require the use of magnification for better study and appreciation of their characteristics, are eligible to apply for membership in the MMNE.

Persons under 19 years of age who have a member serving as a sponsor may be allowed to apply for membership at the discretion of the officers.

Section 3.

The names of the candidates for membership shall be presented to the recording secretary at a regular meeting and shall be accompanied by dues for one year. Election to membership shall be reviewed by the membership chairperson and presented to the membership for approval by a simple majority vote at the next scheduled MMNE meeting at which a quorum is present.

Section 4.

Honorary membership.

Any person who is not a member of the MMNE and who has conspicuously promoted the study of microminerals or micromounting or has rendered significant service to the MMNE may be elected honorary membership. Each candidate for honorary membership shall be presented to the executive committee by a sponsor who is a member with a letter of introduction regarding the

reason(s) for nomination. Election to honorary membership shall be made by a two-thirds vote at the annual business meeting. Honorary members shall be exempt from the payment of dues, but honorary membership does not confer voting privileges and does not entitle the honorary member to receive a free subscription to the newsletter.

Section 5.

Life membership

Life membership may be conferred on any person who has been an actively participating member of the MMNE for an extended period of time, and who, for whatever reason, does not or cannot continue to participate in MMNE activities. Each candidate for life membership must be presented to a quorum of members at any club meeting. Life members shall be exempt from the payment of dues, shall have voting privileges, and shall receive a free subscription to the newsletter.

Section 6.

Members shall be entitled to attend all meetings, participate in all activities and receive a subscription to the Newsletter. Guests will be welcome at all meetings but will be required to pay dues if attending more than two (2) meetings within a twelve (12) month period. Members in arrears may participate in club activities under the rules for guests. They may not vote or be counted as part of a quorum and will not receive a Newsletter.

Section 7.

A membership list containing the names and other demographics of all members, including all life and honorary members, will be distributed at least annually in the newsletter just prior to the annual business meeting to members and life members.

Section 8.

A member is considered to be in arrears when annual dues have not been paid by January 15 of the current year. Notification for renewal of membership shall be sent to each member in the November newsletter of the prior year. No member who is in arrears may be elected to office, serve on a committee, or continue as an elected officer without the approval of the Executive Committee.

Section 9.

The Executive Committee may, at a regular meeting, recommend to the membership expulsion of any member who breaks the AFMS or EFMLC code of ethics or whose attitude or conduct is considered extremely detrimental to the welfare of the MMNE. Such expulsion may be made only after the member has been given an opportunity to show cause why the expulsion is not justified. A quorum of the Executive Committee must meet with member prior to the regular meeting. All members of the Executive Committee must be notified by the corresponding secretary of the planned meeting with the member.

Article 3

Officers and their Duties

Section 1.

Any member may run for and be voted into office. The officers of the MMNE shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Recording-Corresponding Secretary, Membership chairperson - Treasurer and the editor of the Newsletter, all of whom shall be elected at the annual business meeting or until their successors have been elected. A member may hold any two of these offices at the discretion of the Executive Committee and the membership except for the combination of President and Vice-President. No member of the Executive Committee may also hold the position of Treasurer.

Section 2.

The President shall preside at all meeting of the MMNE and shall preside as Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Section 3.

The Vice-President shall act as an aide to the President and shall preside in the absence of that officer. The Vice-President shall succeed the President should he/she vacate the office of the President or become incapacitated for any reason. The Vice-President shall continue to serve in that capacity until the President is able to resume the duties of the office of the President or until the next scheduled elections.

Section 4.

The recording secretary shall keep an accurate record of all the MMNE meetings and shall act as Secretary of the Executive Committee and perform other duties as are customary to the office.

Section 5.

The corresponding Secretary shall conduct the ordinary correspondence of the MMNE. Absentee ballots and election slates will be contained in the Newsletter in a timely fashion.

Section 6.

The treasurer shall be appointed by a majority vote of the Executive Committee and serve for a two-year term. The treasurer shall receive and disburse all monies, keep a strict account in writing of all monies which he/she may receive and disburse, retain written vouchers for payments made and shall submit a written statement monthly and an annual report. All records, including receipts and vouchers shall be kept for a period of time consistent with Internal Revenue Service Rules and Regulation, made available for any audits, passed on to any successor and destroyed only with the explicit permission of the Executive Committee.

The Treasurer, acting as membership chairperson shall be responsible for maintaining a current membership and mailing list and shall report all additions and/or changes to the editor of the Newsletter on a timely basis.

Section 7.

The Editor shall produce and mail the Newsletter on a timely basis, The newsletter shall include a listing of the officer of the club and a schedule of upcoming meetings.

Section 8.

No member who is in arrears may be elected to office, serve on a committee, or continue as an elected officer without the approval of the Executive Committee.

Article 4

Executive Committee

Section 1.

The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers of the MMNE.

Section 2

The Executive Committee shall oversee all business of the MMNE and shall be responsible for all funds and properties of the MMNE. The Executive Committee shall appoint standing committees as necessary, approve the plans and work of standing committees and fill any vacancy which may arise in an office with that member serving until the next election of officers.

Section 3

The Executive Committee shall meet, (a) at the discretion of the President, (b) by request of three members of the board, or (c) by request of 10 members of the MMNE.

Section 4.

A quorum of The Executive Committee shall consist of the majority of the officers.

Article 5

Meetings and Elections

Section 1.

Meetings shall be held at such a time and place as arranged by the President or member designated by the President to perform this function.

Section 2.

The annual business meeting for the election of officers and the submission of reports of officers and committees shall be held during the regular meeting in April or at any other time agreed to by a two-thirds vote of a quorum of the members.

Section 3.

A slate of officers shall be published in the Newsletter and presented one meeting prior to the annual business meeting. Additional nominations from the floor may be made at this time followed by the oral acceptance of nominees. An absentee ballot shall be made from these names and mailed via the Newsletter to every member to be returned to the recording secretary prior to the annual business meeting. Ballots of both absentee and those cast at the annual business meeting will be counted by a committee of two members who will report the results of the voting at the meeting.

Section 4.

10% of the members, but not less than 10 members, shall form a quorum for the purpose of election or the transaction of business.

Article 6

Dues

Section 1.

Dues shall be payable on or before January 1st of each calendar year and shall not be prorated. The amount of the dues shall be adequate for the necessary expenses of the MMNE as demonstrated by the Treasurer's report, and shall be approved by a majority vote of members when a quorum is present. Any change in the amount of dues will become effective on January 1 of the next calendar year.

Section 2.

A member shall be considered in arrears if dues for the current year are not paid prior to January 1st of the current year. There will be a 30 day grace period during which the member will not be relieved of duties as an officer or committee member, but the member will be considered to be in arrears during that time. No Newsletter will be sent to any member in arrears. All members will receive the January Newsletter since it will be mailed prior to January 1st.

Section 3.

Renewal notices will be sent out with the November Newsletter with a reminder in the January Newsletter.

Article 7

Committees

Section 1.

All standing committees shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. Standing committees are program, nominating and membership.

Section 2.

The number of members appointed to any standing committee shall be left to the discretion of the Executive Committee.

Section 3.

Ad hoc committees may be created and members appointed by the president as necessary with the simple majority approval of the Executive Committee.

Section 4.

An auditing committee shall examine the books prior to the annual meeting.

Article 8

Amendments

Section 1.

All amendments to, substitutes for, or alternative of the foregoing by-laws shall be proposed in writing and mailed to the membership via the Newsletter, and discussed

at the following meeting. Amendments to, substitutes for, or alterations of the by-laws shall be voted on at the annual meeting. Absentee ballots shall be mailed to the active membership via the Newsletter at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting. No absentee ballot shall be counted unless the corresponding secretary receives it prior to the Annual Meeting. It shall require a simple majority vote, including the absentee ballots, of the members, or a two-thirds vote of all cast ballots if a majority of members have not voted, to amend the by-laws.

Section 2.

It shall require a two-thirds vote of the members to change the name of the MMNE or to affiliate with other clubs or associations. Any such proposed changes shall be voted on only at the annual meeting. The active membership must be informed by mail of the proposed changes at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting and be supplied with an absentee ballot at that time.

Article 9

Inventory and Disposal of MMNE Property and Assets

Section 1.

At least once annually, an inventory of all club equipment shall be published in the newsletter. This inventory will contain at least name, item description, any serial number or identifying marks, an estimated value and the name of the member responsible for the equipment.

Section 2.

Members are responsible for care and maintenance of equipment. Any money required to maintain or repair shall be approved by a quorum prior to any expense being incurred.

Section 3.

If the MMNE disbands, all property and assets shall be disbursed by a club-held auction to members only. This auction will be held only to members. At least 20 days advance notice must be given to all members in good standing. At the time of notice, no new members will be allowed to join.

Section 4.

After disbanding, all monies shall be donated to a non-profit organization or geological publication that a quorum deems worthy of such a gift. Any items or materials still left over after the auction shall be donated to an appropriate educational based institution.

Article 10

Parliamentary Authority

Section 1.

The Rules contained in Roberts Rules of Order, Revised shall govern the MMNE in all cases to which they are applicable and are not inconsistent with these by-laws.

Next Meeting: Saturday, January 17, 2009 at the Lutheran Church in Chelmsford, MA

Remember:

1. Micromount competition – bring a non-Palermo New Hampshire phosphate, we will try to photograph all submissions.
2. Bring your dues if you have not yet done so, please pay Anna Wilken before or after the official meeting – NOT DURING the meeting itself! I think we need to create a new login for 2009 for member area access, so renew before you miss the cutoff date – whatever it may be!
3. I have 2 more MSH videos, but I do not think there will be enough time to view them at the January meeting. Between the specimen judging and the microscope camera demonstration time will be tight.
4. Club by-laws have been updated but are not yet finished. I will bring copies for any members interested in seeing where we are going. Once done we will publish in a newsletter and post in the member's area.
5. The May Symposium (05/16/2009) will be in Auburn, MA at the Chester Tuttle American Legion Post. Please start considering what items you could donate to the sales and auction table. If you know dealers who may be interested in donating a specimen in exchange for publicity, please contact them.
6. Club brochures were printed in color and made the table at the Worcester Mineral Club Annual Show. Many thanks to the club for their kindness.
7. After our January meeting, consider driving down to Needham, MA to visit the Boston Mineral Club Annual Auction. This one of a kind event enables many folks to obtain high quality specimens, equipment, literature and other mineral-related items for a great deal. Check the MMNE website or the BMC website at <http://www.bostonmineralclub.org> for details and directions.

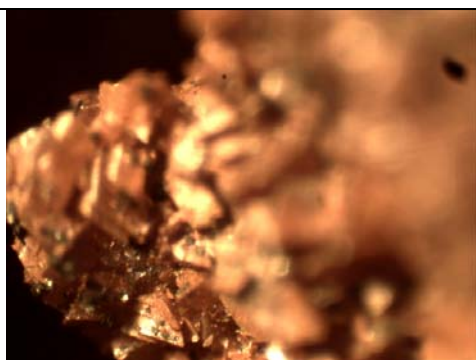


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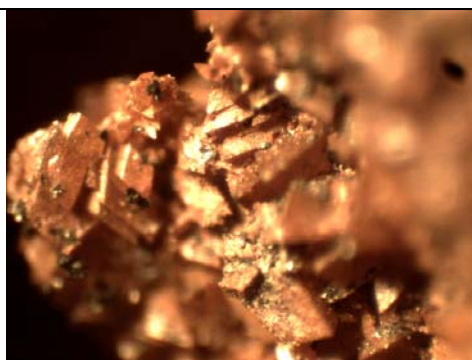


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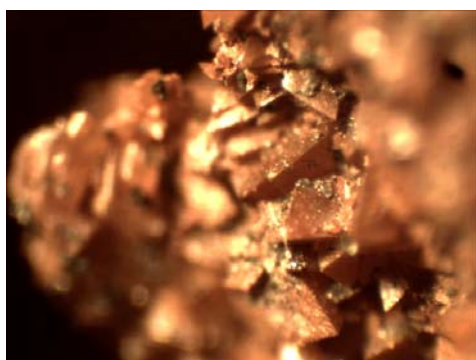


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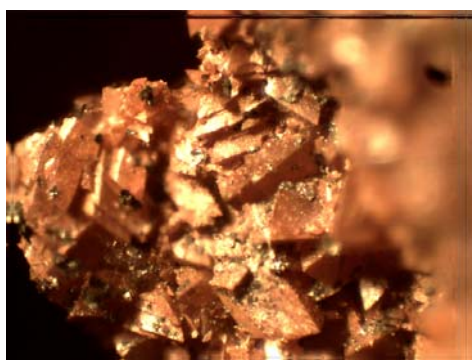


fig 4

Sphalerite, Palermo #1 Mine, N. Groton, Specimen & photo Joe Mulvey
In the above sequence figures 1,2 and 3 were photographed using the club microscope and camera, then stacked using CombineZ into figure 4. Demo at the next club meeting.

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.

