



MICROMOUNTERS OF NEW ENGLAND NEWSLETTER

#207

Summer, 1998

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

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

Upcoming Meetings

Aug. 29th, 1998 - Sunapee Show, Sunapee State Park, Newbury, NH.

Sept. 12, 1998 - location to be determined.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the MMNE will be Saturday, July 18th at Herb & Julie Fielding's camp in Winnisquam, NH (tel. (603) 524-0936). In case of poor weather or other problems, Pat & Bob Barker have offered their home in Campton, NH (tel. (603) 536-2401). As in the past, this will be a potluck lunch, so please bring a contribution of a hot dish, cold cuts, salad, dessert or other to share. Coffee will be available as usual. Don't forget extension cords, power strips, along with folding chairs and tables. The camp is right on the water, so bring swimsuits and towels; sun screen and bug repellent might not be a bad idea.

Future meetings

In August, we are invited by the Capital Mineral Club of New Hampshire to set up at the Sunapee Show in Sunapee State Park, Newbury NH on the 29th. This is not a formal meeting, but a chance to look at a few micros, talk to fellow micromounters, and enjoy the show.

The September meeting is tentatively scheduled for the 12th - meeting place yet to be arranged. WE NEED NEW MEETING PLACES.

In view of the sharp price increase for the 4-H Center in Ashland, MA, we are looking for an alternate site for the May Symposium, to be held no later than May 15th, 1999. We also need suggestions for additional regular meeting places, as we have lost some that we have used in the past. If anyone knows of a possible facility or are willing to participate in the search, please let Jim Warner or Janet Cares know. Both have suggestions as to where to begin your search and what our requirements are.

Sales table material

Speaking of the May Symposium, I received a telephone call a few weeks ago from Julia Curtis-Steele, who is editor of *MicroBits*, newsletter of the Southern California Micro Mineralogists. After getting acquainted, we discussed the trading of material for our respective annual symposia. The phone discussion was followed up a the letter, enclosed in this newsletter. I think her proposal has great merit; perhaps this could be discussed at our September meeting.

Upcoming shows

Along with the East Coast Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show (Aug. 7-9, 1998) at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, MA, might I draw your attention to a show in 'my neck of the woods'. This is the 19th Annual Champlain Valley Gem & Mineral Show at the South Burlington Middle School, Dorset St., South Burlington, VT, July 25-26, 1998. Stu Fenton, president of the Burlington Gem and Mineral Club, alerted me to this show and has sent a letter listing the featured speakers. Mr. Fenton also raises some excellent points about support of local and regional clubs and the attracting of new club members.

Other news

This newsletter also contains some new information on a number of Mont-Saint-Hilaire species, as reprinted from the June, 1997 Canadian Micro Mineral Assoc. newsletter *Micronews*. The May trip to MSH saw a number of MMNE members - too many to list - diligently going at boulders and trading stories. Early reports indicate the trip was moderately productive. I also managed to get to Varennes for the first time on July 5th. I was initially rather baffled by the apparent paucity of 'sizeable' vugs, although subsequent microscopic examination revealed a number of familiar and not-so-familiar species. Our club was also well represented on this trip.

Well, enough... I hope your summer is a sunny and productive one!

June 4, 1998

Dear members,

I am writing to you, in behalf of my club, to say that some of us are interested in trading East for West for our collective Sales Tables.

I am the Editor, so I have access to your bulletin. The January, 1998 issue contained an idea that I have run through my head for quite awhile.

We have many members that have collected at locations you wish you could go to and vice-versa I'm sure. We don't have basements but we do have garages with walls that we hold up with our overabundance of material.

Our conference is held in January, and have had a sales table for 3 years now. It was a long fight to have one, and now comes the problem of keeping it stocked. We use 100% of the money generated for speakers for the conference. Our attendees are always looking for locations that are not available to them geographically, such as those that are fairly common to you. We have material, likewise, from locations that you can't readily go to. Our members have collected from Gold Hill, Majuba Hill, Blue Bell, Mohawk, Oregon, Boron, Searles Lake, and etc.

Could we work together?

Julia Curtis-Steele
609 W. 36th st.
Long Beach, CA 90806

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie".

Editor, MicroBits, publication of the Southern California Micro Mineralogists, host of the annual Pacific Micromineral Conference, held in Redlands, CA

To Club Editor and all Club Officers:

The decreasing attendance at club shows is something we all must address. Today everyone seems to be in a hurry, we have multi-job families, an increase in commercial mineral shows, tight budgets, various other interests, and changing life styles that influence attendance at club shows.

As a club officer and a dealer, this letter is a request for help, and one step we must take together to try and gain show attendance, and more importantly, new active members for our clubs.

This letter is sent to you the editor of the club newsletter, and I am requesting you include the notice of our club show in your newsletter. I would also like you to bring the above thoughts to the other club officers. Maybe by working together we can help each other promote our local clubs and their activities.

Inclosed is a flyer for our show. The featured speakers at this writing are -
Bob Whitmore speaking on the history, the minerals, and the
developments at the Palermo Mine. He will also have a display.
Woody Tompson will speak on occurrences in the State of Maine.
Sue Hadden will speak on history and minerals at the Lowell/Eden
asbestos quarry in Vermont.

There is also a possible fourth speaker not yet confirmed.

A comment from last years show featuring fluorite - *"The speakers were so good I didn't get to see the whole show."* This person came to the show both days.

There will be displays by club members, dealers, and other clubs; of gems, minerals & fossils. Everyone who enters the show gets a gift. Kids can get rewards at a fish pond concession. We have food in house. Demonstrations are ongoing, as is a raffle based on ticket numbers. And best of all is that the time of year is right for a vacation in the hills & valleys of Vermont, and on Lake Champlain.

Thanking you for the Burlington Gem & Mineral Club



Stu Fenton, Pres.

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May 9th, 1998 Micromounters of New England

The Micromounters of New England met at Northborough, Ma. on May 9th. The formal meeting was called to order by Vice President, Jim Warner, at 1:00 p.m.

Jim reported that the next meeting will be held on May 9th at the 4-H Hall in Ashland. Margaret Stewart is collecting the \$18.00 Registration fee. Because of sharply escalating costs at the 4-H, members are asked to be on the lookout for a place for next year with the following amenities:

1. Inexpensive hall rental
2. Tables and chairs and space for 75 or more people
3. Adequate parking
4. Adequate number of electric outlets
5. Windows that have blinds
6. Kitchen facilities

The next order of business was election of officers. It was moved and seconded to elect Jim Warner President and Hal Herard for Vice President. Hal said that he couldn't manage it this year, so the motion was voted down.

A new motion to make Jim Warner our President and leave the Vice President's position open till next fall was voted on and approved.

Jim said he plans to mail out a flier that will ask members what their particular interests are and their thoughts on the future of the Micromounters of New England.

Hans Swarts handed out dental picks to members present, which were gratefully received.

Gene Bearss gave us the information that Walmart has a product called "Googone" that very effectively removes the remains of sticky labels from plastic boxes.

Jim told us that Steve and Janet have asked to have some of their duties delegated to others. Janet had to leave before the business meeting but she left a questionnaire for discussion. Actually very little discussion followed most of the items.

John Stewart said that he would be happy to store and transport the give-aways each month. The entire membership is asked to bring in give-aways at each meeting either on cards or in egg crates.

The members present said that they would be content to see the dues go up, but only if necessary for an expanded bulletin, i.e. more than 4 sheets (8 or 10 pages). Gene pointed out that this is the only tie we have with members who live too far away to attend meetings more than one a year.

Everyone present agreed, unanimously, that they don't like business meetings, but they are a necessary evil. Keep them short! Publishing the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports is one way to shorten the meetings. Hans is doing a great job on the bulletins!

Meeting localities were discussed briefly. Members who are not happy with present meeting halls were asked to look into facilities nearer their homes. Most people like the locations right off Route 495: Westford, Northborough, etc.

One item on Janet's list that caused discussion was "Theme Meetings." some people said they didn't care for themes for an entire meeting, although they did like the program to be on one mine or mining district or on a family of minerals like phosphates or zeolites.

A suggestion that we publish a once-only set of maps to our various meeting halls was voted down. Most everyone agreed that they would loose the leaflet immediately.

Apparently the entire membership, like the Secretary, suffers from Old Timer's Disease!?

The final two questions on the list will be put off for a fall meeting, but members are asked to think about ways to lighten the load of the officers. New member Brian Porter of Coventry, Conn. was welcomed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Barker, Secretary

MONT SAINT-HILAIRE NEWS - May 15, 1997**Sheldrickite (UK 90)**

Grice, J. D., Gault, R. A., and Van Velthuisen, J. (1997) Sheldrickite, A New Sodium-Calcium-Fluorocarbonate Mineral Species from Mont Saint-Hilaire, Quebec. *Can Min.* **35.**, pp 181 - 187.

Sheldrickite, ideally $\text{Na Ca}_3(\text{CO}_3)_2\text{F}_3\text{H}_2\text{O}$, is a **newly described mineral species** from Mont Saint-Hilaire, Quebec, and was originally given the designation **UK90**. The cotype specimens were collected in 1991 by staff from the CMN and by Gilles Haineault. At present it is considered to be very rare; only approximately 60 mg. of material are known to exist. The specimens were collected in the Poudrette quarry from a marble xenolith in nepheline syenite, close to a large unit of hornfels. Sheldrickite is intimately associated with **shortite**, the crystals being found in a cavity between shortite crystals and as flakes in thin seams between crystals of shortite. Other associated species include **pectolite**, **microcline**, **polyolithionite**, **arfvedsonite**, **aegirine**, **calcite**, **fluorite**, and minor **molybdenite**, **leucosphenite**, **thenardite**, **thermonatrite**, **sphalerite**, **galena**, **schairerite** and **kogarkoite**. The mineral assemblage is thought to be a late-stage hydrothermal infilling.

Sheldrickite has two distinct habits: (1) it occurs as a 1 x 1 x 2 mm aggregate of blocky twinned crystals with individuals up to 0.1 mm, and (2) more commonly as radiating thin white silky flakes to fibrous masses up to 2 mm wide. The mineral is colorless to white with a vitreous lustre. It is brittle with an uneven fracture, and has a good {001} parting. Sheldrickite is relatively soft (Mohs hardness 3) and does not fluoresce. It is uniaxial positive, $\omega = 1.583(2)$ and $\epsilon = 1.563(4)$ (for $\lambda = 589 \text{ nm}$) and nonpleochroic. Sheldrickite is trigonal, space group $P3_2$, $a = 6.718(3) \text{ \AA}$, $c = 15.050(4) \text{ \AA}$, $V = 588.3(3) \text{ \AA}^3$, and $Z = 3$.

Abstracted by Malcolm Back

97-7 Röntzenite - new species for MSH. Confirmed at Harvard and Laurentian Universities.

Occurs as brown, platy balls, approximately 0.1 mm in diameter. Found in association with pink albite, transparent, colourless to very pale grey elpidite and beige rosettes of dolomite. The environment is thought to be an albite-rich igneous breccia

97-8 UK61a - new material. Collected from cavities in marble xenolith located near a nepheline syenite contact (May '95) by Elsa and Les Horvath.

Occurs as beige, radiating aggregates in association with penkvilksite, aegirine, labuntsovite (in spherical aggregates), pectolite, fluorite etc. Preliminary XRD and EDX analyses (Dept. of Earth Sciences, Laurentian University) indicate the mineral is compositionally and structurally very close to UK61.

97-9 Vinogradovite - Occurrence in a new environment at MSH. Found as pinkish-brown radiating needles in pegmatite. Collected by Peter Tarassoff.

97-10 New unknown phase (no UK number designated). Occurs as tiny (0.3 mm) transparent, clear, equant platy prisms (unstriated) in a cavity in marble xenolith. Associated with clinoamphibole, muscovite, pectolite and calcite. Preliminary XRD and EDX data indicate the mineral is related to vuonnemite. Collected by Adolph Vogt and submitted by Kerry Day.

97-11 New unknown phase (no UK number designated). Occurs as large (up to 1.5 cm) orange to yellowish red prisms in a sodalite syenite xenolith. XRD pattern is not close to that of any known phase and preliminary EDX data indicate it may be a Ca-Zr-Mg silicocarbonate. Collected by Adolph Vogt and submitted by Kerry Day.

97-7 to 97-11 submitted by Andy McDonald. (Thanks to Malcolm Back for sending us this update on MSH- Eds.)