

MICROMOUNTERS OF NEW ENGLAND NEWSLETTER

#216

Summer, 1999

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

Sept. 11th, Hudson, MA Public Library. Doors open at 9 AM.

Next meetings

The next MMNE meeting will be held on Saturday, July 17th at Herb and Julia Fielding's camp on Lake Winnisquam near Laconia, NH. In case of problems such as inclement weather we'll go to Pat and Bob Barker's in Campton, NH (see maps and phone numbers). As usual we'll have a potluck luncheon, so bring a contribution (self-made or purchased) of your favorite dish – cold cuts, a casserole, salad, cold beverage or dessert. Coffee will be provided. Also bring extension cords, folding chairs, and tables, if possible.

August has traditionally been an informal meeting at the Capital Mineral Club's Sunapee show; however, that is now to be held October 2 and 3. A possible alternative is the East Coast Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show (the "Springfield Show"). This show will be held August 13-15 at the Better Learning Center of the Eastern States Exposition complex in Springfield, MA. Doors open at 10 AM. Though no arrangements have been made to set up, many of our members attend.

The schedule for the rest of this year is as follows:

September 11	Hudson, MA	9 AM
October 9	The Fogs' (Dunbarton, NH)	9 AM
November 13	Burlington, MA	10 AM
December	<no meeting>	

All meetings are on Saturday and at public libraries with the exception of the Fogs. Reservations have already been made for the annual Northeast ("May") Meeting at the Moose Lodge in Marlboro, MA for May 20, 2000.

Member News

We welcome new member Paul Gilmore:

Paul Gilmore
15 Fossen Way
Andover, MA 01810
(978) 681-1097

The Carrs have moved from their home of many years. Violet is under nursing care and Ralph is in an apartment in the same facility. Cards or letters should be addressed to Ralph:

Ralph Carr
40 Irving Ave
Apt. 211
East Providence, RI 02914
(401) 434-7585

On a sad note, we have learned of the death of several former MMNE members. Jean Downing, a twenty-year member, first joined with her husband Jack when they lived in New Hampshire. They later moved to California and finally returned to Connecticut, where they lived next door to their daughter and her family. Jean had always been very generous to MMNE with extra minerals, both rough and mounted, from New England as well as western localities. We extend our condolences to her family.

Calendar of upcoming events

July 24-25, Burlington, VT. 20th Annual Champlain Valley Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show. sponsored by the Burlington Gem & Mineral Club. F. Tuttle Middle School. 560 Dorset St., South Burlington VT.

July 24, Mont Saint-Hilaire. Sat. Open for collecting at 9 AM.

August 13-15, Springfield, MA. East Coast Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show. Eastern Exposition Center, Springfield, MA. Doors open at 10 AM. Info: (303) 674-2713.

August 21, Mont Saint-Hilaire. Sat. Open for collecting at 9 AM.

Sept. 11-12, Danbury, CT. Danbury Mineralogical Society's 50th Anniversary Mineral & Gem Show. Danbury High School. Clapboard Ridge Road.

Sept. 18, Mont Saint-Hilaire. Sat. Open for collecting at 9 AM.

Oct. 23, Mont Saint-Hilaire. Sat. Open for collecting at 9 AM.

May 20, 2000, Marlboro, MA. MMNE Northeast Meeting. Moose Lodge. Marlboro, MA.

Another long-time member, **Bill Lindsey**, also died recently. In addition to mineral collecting, he enjoyed gardening, collecting antique scales, and was also a "train buff". His wife Gerry died about two years ago and the program of the 1997 MMNE Northeast Meeting was dedicated to her memory. A son, Robert, and a daughter, Pam, both of whom live in Granby, CT, survive Bill.

Pat Barker has submitted the following in memory of MMNE member **Frank Leighton**.

Frank Leighton, Micromounter and Photomicrographer

One of our beloved members and good friend, Frank Leighton of Phillipston, MA passed away on April 29th, 1999. He was 81, but had he died at 101, we would have called it an untimely death; his friends weren't prepared.

Frank and his 46-year partner and pal, Phyllis, attended the first annual MMNE Northeast Meeting at the Science Museum in Springfield, MA in 1982. Although Frank was already interested in mineral collecting and belonged to the Greenfield Mineral Club and later the Attleborough Club, he truly found a passion at Springfield. Phyllis says he had talked about owning a microscope for some time, but this gave him the excuse. He never looked back. Frank was interested in specimens from all over the world, but was especially interested in those from the Manhan Mine in Loudville, MA. Over the years he built up a handsome collection from there.

Frank had been a photographer in the Marine Corps in World War II. He never spoke about his experiences photographing the terrible sights of war, but his interest in photography led him into a lifetime occupation with the Starrett Company in Athol, MA, where he met his wife-to-be Phyllis. The microscope offered another aspect of photography – photomicrography. Frank manufactured most of his equipment himself, especially an elaborate setup that allowed him to take stereo pairs of pictures of miniature and micro specimens. Viewing these elegant pictures with a stereopticon was a delight to members of the MMNE. Frank presented several programs on this subject, once in 1991 and again in 1993. He was anxious to show other photographers how he did the stereo pictures, and his audience just loved his startling 3-D pictures.

Frank was very active in our club. In 1986 Frank was elected President of the MMNE. In the late 1980s and into the 1990s, a rather large group of members and guests would stay overnight at the 4-H Club headquarters in Ashland, MA for the Annual May Meeting. Frank and Phyllis made it a point to get there early on Friday afternoon to organize the table and chair setup for the next day and post the directional signs Frank had made for the Club. When all the overnights were present, we would go out for dinner at a nearby restaurant and then return for a jovial and, usually, late evening to look at minerals and talk about recent collecting experiences. Frank and other photographers would discuss the newest methods and display their latest pictures. It is a happy memory.

Beside his mineral interests, Frank was an avid gardener and for many years in Phillipston he and a neighbor had an enormous vegetable garden on the Common that just about fed the whole upper village!

Frank also had a great love for books, especially those on nature, astronomy, minerals, geology, animals, art, photography, New England history (especially Revolutionary War reenactments), historical houses like their own, and just about every other subject! The Phillipston Public Library is just across the street from the Leighton home, and they were the library's best customers. Frank worked on the renovations of the building, helped raise money for it, and he and Phyllis frequently served as substitute librarians. Frank also held just about every office in town and could easily be called "Mr. Phillipston". He will be greatly missed. In our organization, we have lost a kind and gentle friend.

Secretary's report

May 15, 1999 Annual May Meeting

Forty-two members and guests of the Micromounters of New England attended the meeting at the spacious Moose Hall in Marlborough, Massachusetts on May 15, 1999.

This was the first time at the Marlborough site, and members agreed that this is a commodious hall, had a most satisfactory luncheon caterer and picnic area, and an enormous car parking lot. The wheelchair ramp makes it possible for dollies to easily access the hall (believe me, as I progress into my "Golden Years", those stairs at the 4-H got steeper!). It looks as if this will be our new home, and to celebrate this transition, President Jim Warner proposed that from now on the May Meeting will be entitled the "Annual Janet and Steve Cares Micromounter's Reunion". This was greeted with much enthusiasm and promptly approved. The Slate of Officers for the next Club year remains unchanged. A get-well card was signed by members for Scott Whittemore who is recovering from surgery.

Janet Cares introduced our speaker, Dr. Henry L. Barwood, who is well known to us through his articles in *Rocks and Minerals*, *Mineral News*, and other publications. Dr. Barwood discussed and showed slides on the mineralogy of the Arkansas Alkaline Province. Many of these minerals are familiar to us from Mont Saint-Hilaire. When Dr. Barwood finished his talk, he opened a box of give-aways from Granite Mountain for the audience. Those specimens last approximately 60 seconds.

Thanks for this successful meeting is largely due to Janet Cares. She had started a long search for a new meeting place right after the 1998 May Meeting. When she located the Moose Hall, she made all the arrangements at this new venue, including the caterer who served the picnic lunch. Steve and Janet prepared most of the give-away specimen cards and many of the minerals for sale. Janet also prepared the souvenir bulletin.

Some of the members who provided specimens included Janet and Steve Cares, Bob Janules, Gene Bearss, Jim Parella, Margaret and John Stewart, Pat Barker, Forrest Fogg, Herb Fielding, and Doug and George Rambo. A collection of micromounts had been donated to the Club, gathered in the 1960s by Marion and Lester Sunvision of Livingston, Montana, friends of Pat and Bob Barker. Also very important this year was a nice selection of specimens that Hans Swarts had arranged in a swap with the Southern California Micro-Mineralogists. Good job, Hans! I'm sure there were other donations that I didn't know about.

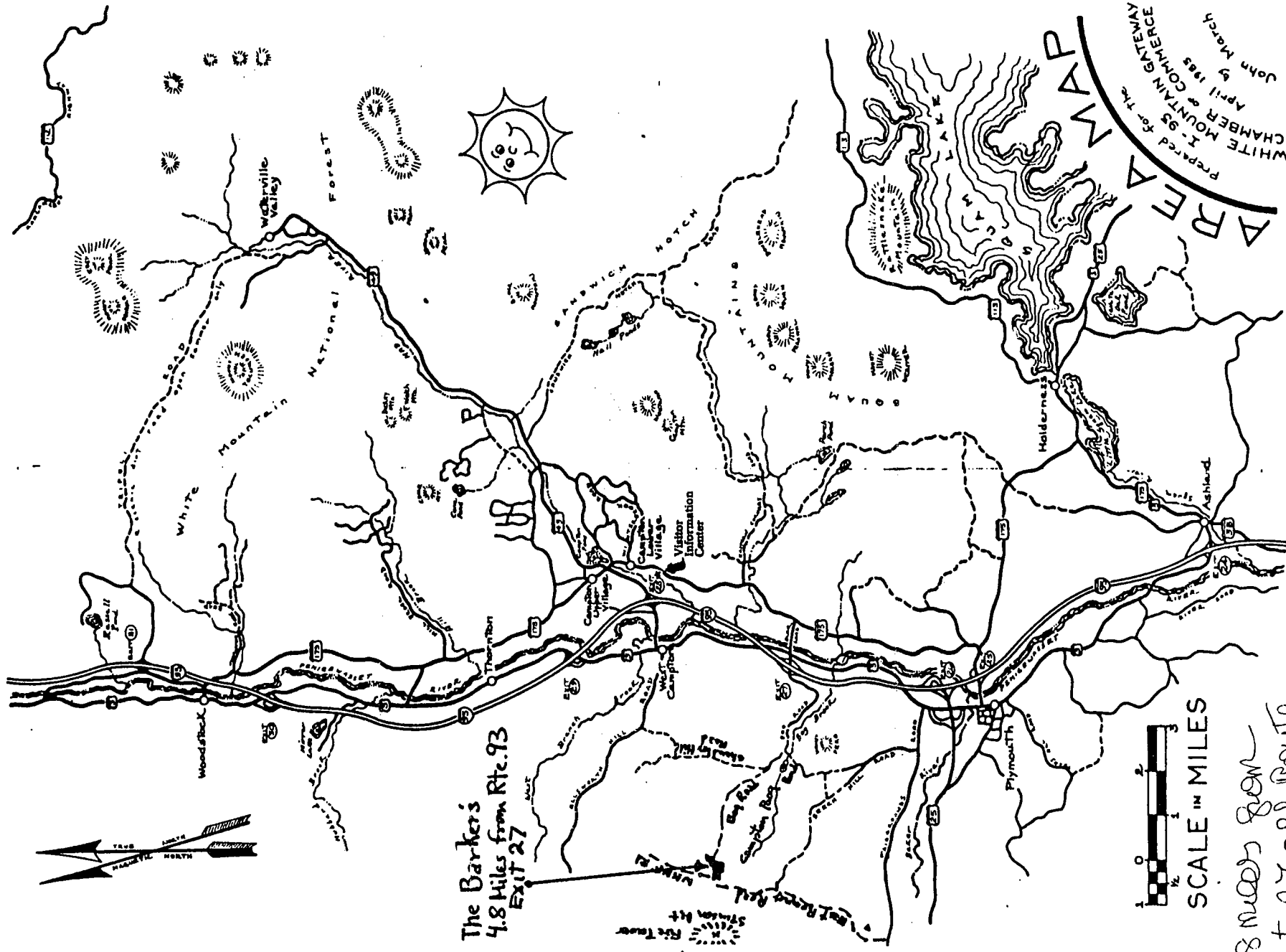
A special thank you to Edna Lerer who soldiered on all day despite a very uncomfortable pinched nerve. That's dedication above and beyond! Thanks to all who contributed to the morning snack table: Margaret Stewart, Josephine MacIndewar, Janet Cares, Pat Barker, and Betty Sevens. Much appreciation to Margaret Stewart for her job as registrar, and, as always, thanks to John and Margaret Stewart for all they do for our organization.

After the lecture the door prizes were called and then everyone began to pack up. However, more discussion followed in the parking lot at John Stewart's truck where he was handing out filled egg cartons. Then reluctantly a very contented bunch of micromounters headed for home.

Patricia Berry Barker, Secretary

As a note to the May Meeting, the following was sent in by **Hugh McCulloch**.

"What a great meeting that was on Saturday!! It was my first, and I certainly plan to come again. My congratulations to all the planners. One of the cleverest features was the way the give-away material is presented - small, high-grade pieces attached to cards with all the info. Added - so much more civilized than other symposia which put out a big box of rough "find it if you can" material. Hats off to you!! Thank you for a wonderful day."



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