

## 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. 281

Summer, 2007

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### **Current Meeting**

Saturday, July 21<sup>st</sup>  
hosted by  
Pam & Gordon Jackson  
Canterbury, NH  
9 am -

Map and driving  
directions are on page 5

### **Next Meeting**

September meeting  
to be announced...

For information regarding  
**MEETING CANCELLATION**  
due to inclement weather,

contact:  
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(413) 773-3867  
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## **Micromounters of New England May 2007 Meeting**

by Bob Wilken

The Grand May Meeting of the Micromounters of New England assembled at the Hudson, MA Elks Hall on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> with twenty-seven members and three guests in attendance.

The day began with coffee provided by Mary's Catering and member-donated baked goods. During the AM hours members settled down to a morning of socializing and "scoping". It is always a wonderful opportunity to see and to talk to the truly, long distance "old friends" that cannot travel to the usual monthly meetings. Between the chitchat, members made countless trips to the giveaway table and the sales table throughout the morning hours. The silent auction table attracted bid after bid for a variety of donated items such as mineral CD's, bulk micro material as well as a few full-sized specimens. A beautiful Namibian beryl generated some keen competition.

The buffet lunch began promptly at noon with a generous assortment of hot meats, pasta, salads and drink offered by the catering service. No one appeared to complain about the quantity or the quality. Watermelon refreshingly rounded out the lunch. At shortly after 1 PM a short business meeting was convened (*see report on page 4*).

Guest speaker Jim Nizamoff then presented an informative and thoroughly entertaining presentation entitled "The Palermo Pegmatites", the theme for which Jim received his Masters degree at the University of New Orleans. Jim briefly discussed the age of the pegmatite assemblages, the primary phosphate minerals, their manner of occurrence, differences between the #1 and #2, and the paragenesis of the large variety of secondary phosphates. He "threaded the needle" keeping a good balance for those that needed scientific explanation and for those that appreciated mineralogical aesthetics. This was the highlight of the day and all appeared to appreciate Jim's expertise and photography (*see pictures on page 3*).

As with past tradition, the program ended with the awarding of door prizes and the resolution of the silent auction.

## **Summer Meeting**

The summer meeting of the MMNE will be held on Saturday, July 21 at the home of Gordon and Pamela Jackson in Canterbury, NH. This will include a pot luck lunch, so please bring something to share with the other attendees. Bring 'scopes, extension cords, etc. You might check with Gordon at (603) 424-9269 to see whether he needs anything else (*map and directions on page 5*).

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/or 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.

#### Officers for 2007-2008

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### **2007 CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### June 2007

30 – Fieldtrip to the Poudrette Quarry, Mt-St-Hilaire, Québec – organized by the “Club de Minéralogie de Montréal” <http://www.clubmineralogiemtl.com/activites/excursions/msh.htm>

#### July 2007

14-15 – Bethel ME; 46<sup>th</sup> Western Maine Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Festival; Telstar High School Rte 26 Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4; Lorraine Tanguay (207) 824-3611; tangfam@megalink.net  
 14-15 – Syracuse NY; 41<sup>st</sup> annual show Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse; Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4; Cathy Patterson (315) 638-8817; <http://www.gmss.us>  
 21 – MMNE Summer meeting at the home of Gordon and Pamela Jackson; potluck lunch; doors open at 9 am; directions on page xx.  
 21 – Fieldtrip to the Poudrette Quarry, Mt-St-Hilaire, Québec (see above)  
 28-29 – South Burlington VT; 28<sup>th</sup> annual show Burlington Gem & Mineral Club; Sat 10-5, Sun 10-5; Kathy Howe (802) 656-4118; <http://www.burlingtongemandmineralclub.org>.

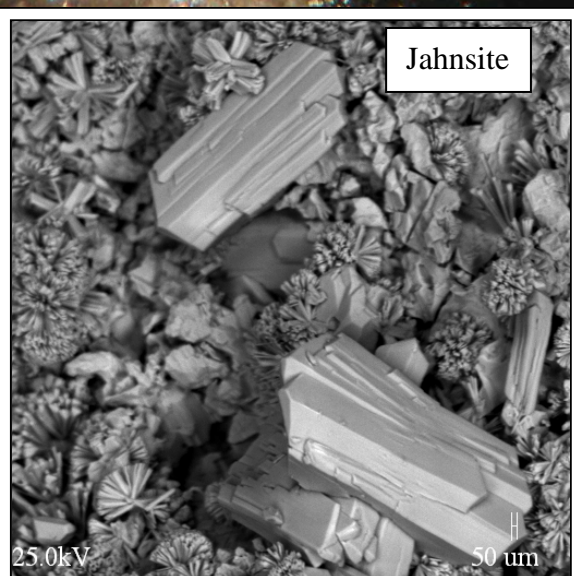
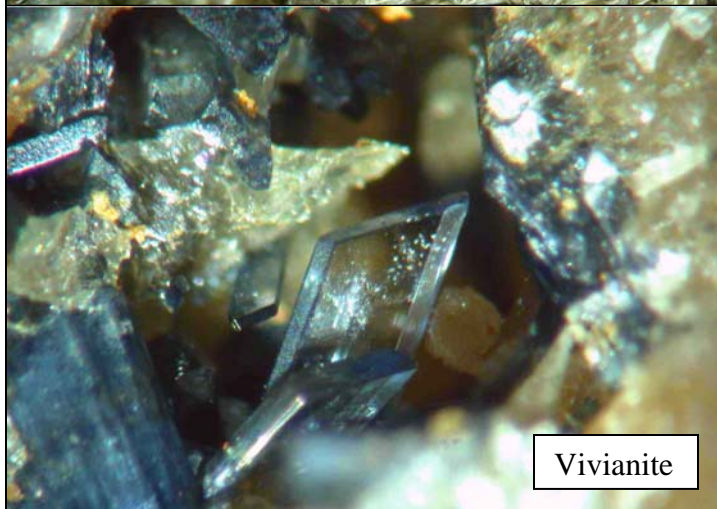
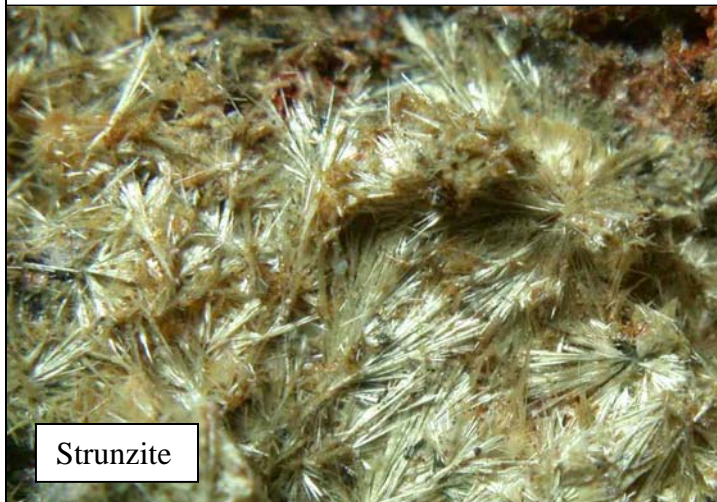
#### August 2007

4-5 – Waterville ME; 37<sup>th</sup> annual show Water-Oak Gem & Mineral Society; Mount Merici School, 152 Western Ave; Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4; Ellery Borrow (207) 547-3154  
 10-12 – West Springfield MA, East Coast Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show; Better Living Center, 1305 Mem. Drive; Fri-Sat 10-7, Sun 10-5; admission \$6  
 31-3 Henderson Co. Gem and Min. Soc. 26<sup>th</sup> Show (<http://home.nctv.com/earlrock/hcgmsannual.htm>)  
 Micromounter Symposium Sept 1<sup>st</sup>, 9 am – 5 pm, Salvation Army Building, Hendersonville, NC

#### September 2007

1 – Fieldtrip to the Poudrette Quarry, Mt-St-Hilaire, Québec (see above)  
 1-2 – Augusta ME: 18<sup>th</sup> annual show Kennebec Rocks & Minerals Club; National Guard Armory, Western Ave.; Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4; (207) 873-6270.  
 8-9 – New Milford CT; 57<sup>th</sup> annual show Danbury Mineralogical Society; New Milford High School, Danbury Rd; Sat 10-5:30, Sun 10-5; [www.danburymineralogicalsociety.org](http://www.danburymineralogicalsociety.org).

Jim Nizamoff's presentation on Palermo pegmatites is online in the member-only part of the MMNE website <http://www.micromountersofnewengland.org/members/index.htm>; login: 2007member; password: phenakite. For those of you who missed the meeting, I strongly recommend to have a look at it. Below are some mineral pictures from the presentation (© Jim Nizamoff)



**Secretarial report: May 19, 2007**

by Bob Wilken

The business portion of the Grand May Meeting convened at approximately 1:30 PM with twenty-seven members and three guests in attendance. It was brief.

Gene Bearss stood to give special recognition to Etienne Medard for his service to the club as newsletter editor for the past year. It was noted that Etienne would soon be returning to France and then Switzerland for work there. Gene also thanked President Tom Mortimer for his year of service especially in view of all the work he did to find a new, dependable and affordable monthly meeting place for the Micromounters of New England.

It was suggested that the club look into the feasibility of renting a larger area at the new Chelmsford, MA Trinity Lutheran facility. A cafeteria area was specifically mentioned.

Discussion followed regarding the annual summer meeting. Gordon Jackson said he and Pam were willing to host the event at their home as in the recent past. Tom Mortimer indicated that the date and pertinent information would be published in the June newsletter. Bob Wilken suggested that an event such as a combined picnic and collecting event might be organized as an alternative in the future.

Mike Swanson offered the latest news about the upcoming May Mont Saint Hilaire collecting outlook. He also recommended the need for a required MMNE by-law review. He then gave an account of an individual that is having great success teaching children micromounting. However, material is needed badly. He encouraged members to consider getting involved and donating spare micro material to this end.

Gene Bears closed the business portion of the meeting with the calling of door prize numbers for applause for Mary's Catering Service.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bob Wilken, Secretary

**From the editor**

This is my last newsletter as editor, since I will be moving back to Europe in September. Hard to believe it has already been a year since I started on that adventure. It has been a lot of fun interacting with you all while desperately trying to find information for the newsletter. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the club members who made my job much easier by sending me articles, pictures, informations... Many thanks in particular to Bob & Anna Wilken, Tom Mortimer, Joe Mulvey, Bill Henderson, John Anderson, Norm Biggart, Gene Bearss, Merry Porro... I probably forgot some – please don't feel offended. I really enjoyed the meetings and the discussions over mineral identification, I learned a lot, discovered new mineral localities, and most importantly met a lot of nice people.

Tom Mortimer has agreed to assume the position of Newsletter editor starting with the September, 2007 issue. Please help him with that task by sending him some material: locality-oriented or more technical articles, pictures, short trip reports, information on fieldtrips or mineral shows... The quality of the newsletter depends on YOU ALL; the editor only puts together whatever YOU send him...



## NAMES IN LIGHTS: A WORD OF THANKS

The officers of the Micromounters of New England wish to thank all of those who helped make the May Meeting a great success. The following is a compendium of individuals who are due some thanks (in no special order!). When all do a little a big result is achieved! **THANKS!**

**Tom Mortimer:** Program design and speaker arrangement details

**Gene Bearss:** Donation of doorprizes

**Gordon and Pam Jackson:** Silent auction setup and management

**Pat Barker, the Jacksons and the Wilkens:** Donations for the Silent Auction

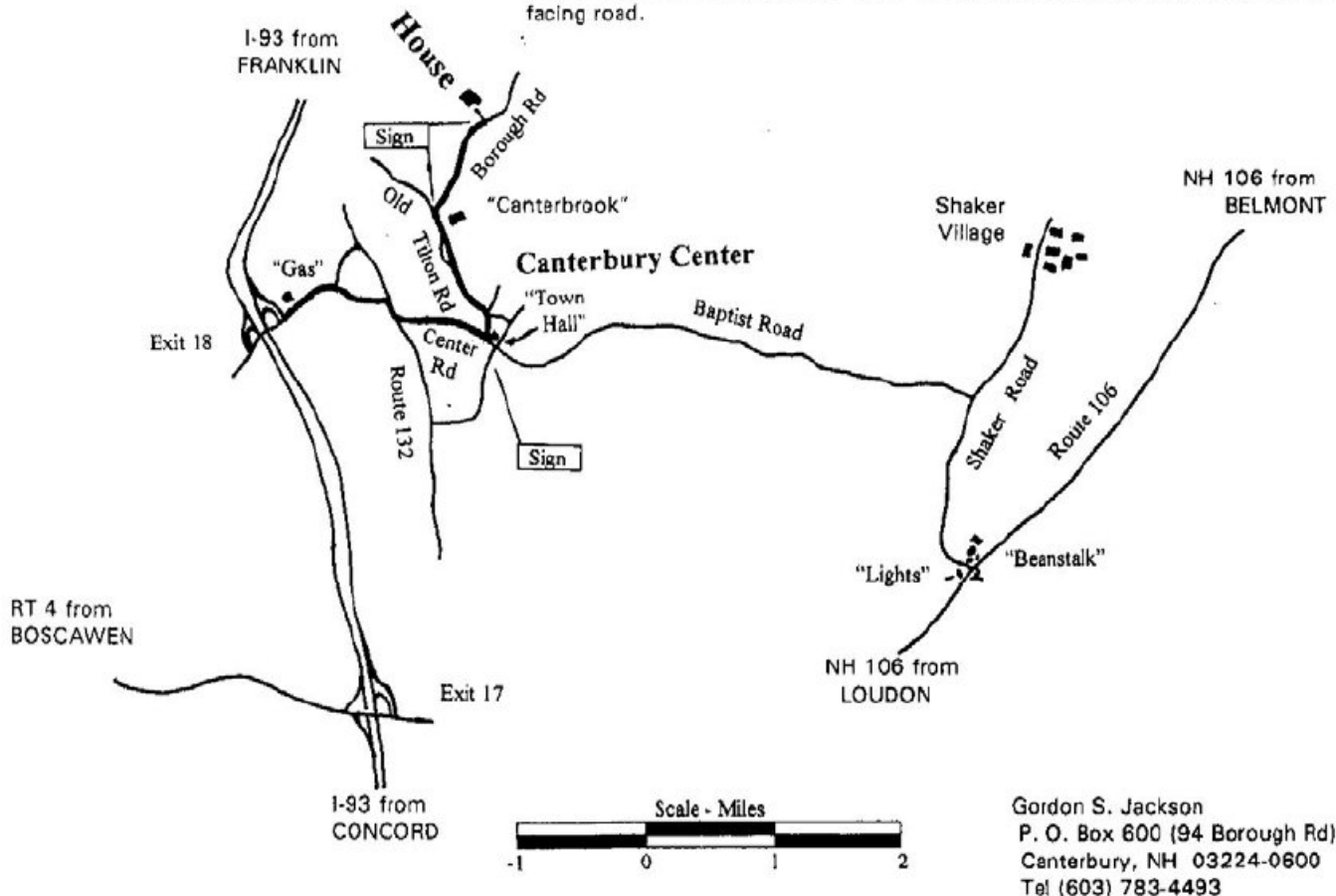
**Hal Herard** with able assistance from **Jim Parella:** Sales Table organization and setup

**Joe Mulvey:** Giveaway table materials management and setup; Equipment coordinator.

**Anna Wilken:** Arrangements with Marys catering and May meeting enrollment

**You know who you are:** Morning baked goods donations, table setup and take-down, sales table and giveaway donations!!!

**FOLLOW MAP:** Take Old Tilton Road from Center ( next to Town Hall) go approximately 1 1/2 miles (about 0.7 mile tar, 0.7 mile gravel) to horse farm (Canterbrook), turn right (Borough Road); go up paved hill 0.7 mile and continue on gravel 0.2 mile to drive on left (across from cape); White newspaper box & rock at end of drive has yellow painted "94". Ranch with greenhouse and large garage facing road.



MMNE meeting: Saturday July 21 at Gordon & Pamela Jackson's home.