



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

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OFFICERS 2002-2003

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Next Meeting

**Map and directions
are on the back page**

Dues are \$10/person
or \$15/family for the
calendar year,
payable to MMNE
and mailed to the
membership
chairperson

MINUTES OF THE MMNE MEETING JANUARY 18, 2003

The first meeting of the year was held at the Chelmsford Library with 14 members present. The business portion of the meeting was called to order at noon. Corresponding Secretary Pat Barker acted as Chairperson for the meeting. The proposed Maine State Park at Newry, ME was discussed (see 2/03 Newsletter), and it was approved and voted that the club donate \$100 to this cause.

Pat asked if ads could be placed in the *Newsletter*. Editor Mike Swanson said he had no problem with ads as long as the number of sheets does not exceed five - postage goes up at that point. (Ed: The original discussions had revolved around want ads or trade lists for specimen material. We can try some sale lists, particularly hardware, if things do not get out of hand. For extensive lists, members can indicate general areas of interest, and the provide phone number, e-mail address or mailing address for more information.) These ads are only open to paid-up members.

The speaker for the May Reunion meeting will be Jason Smith. His wife Mandy will be with him. They are from the Charlotte, NC area, and are experts on the Foote and LCA Mines. Anita and John Hubley have offered to put the couple up for this meeting as well as provide transportation to and from the airport and the meeting site. The club will pay them a \$300 honorarium plus transportation.

The July 19th meeting will be held at the home of Gordon Jackson.

This portion of the meeting was adjourned at 1:05 PM.

REMINDER:

Members are welcome to bring specimens and related books, hardware, etc. to meetings for sale. 20% of the proceeds from specimen material only will go into the clubs coffers.

MINUTES OF THE MMNE MEETING FEBRUARY 15, 2003

President Jim Cahoon, called the February meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. 12 members were present at the Burlington Public Library. The Treasurer's Report was not available. The Secretary's Report was approved as submitted.

President Cahoon announced that Bob Janules would present a program at the March meeting on the proposed Maine State Geological Park, tell us what minerals may be found there, and answer the question, 'why a donation toward the purchase is a good investment'.

Old Business: Bulletin Editor Mike Swanson has suggested that we consider having all our meetings in Auburn or Worcester. Then, he said we might be able to have a storage unit for all the Club's belongings. He felt that more people from Connecticut would attend. However several members pointed out that when we hold meetings at Auburn, Shrewsbury, and Milford that no Connecticut people attend.

Secretary Pat Barker distributed (along with the minutes) a list of questions that she had obtained after reading the minutes of the last few years:

Donations of \$50.00 were to be given to the libraries where we meet most frequently. Presumably that would be to Chelmsford, Burlington, Auburn, Sudbury, and Westford. The first such donation, voted on by the members, was March 17th, 2001. Have we continued to do that? Should we continue to do that? (In the past we have donated trestle tables or books to host libraries).

Pat asked if the members present knew where the Club belongings were located. These include the microscope that Steve Cares donated to the Club for the use of visitors, the stereopticon that we purchased to view Frank Leighton's slides, and the electronic sound system.

Members present agreed that we should hold our business meetings at a time convenient for the officers present, instead of an hour after the meeting room becomes available.

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EYE SAFETY

Our eyes require protection at all times of the year, whether it is protection from the sun on the way to a collecting site, protection from flying particles at a collecting site, or protection from chemicals, dust, or particles while processing our finds back in the shop.

Eye hazards include particles, dusts, mists, vapors, fumes, gases, laser lights, and ultraviolet light. Many of these hazards are encountered by rockhounds in pursuit of their passion.

Safety glasses or spectacles are designed to provide impact protection from flying particles and have heavier frames that normal spectacles with impact resistant lenses, usually of polycarbonate. The lenses can be tinted to protect the eyes from laser of ultraviolet light or the sun's rays. As most particles enter the eyes at an angle, it is recommended that the frames accommodate and are worn with side shields or have them "built in." Safety glasses are available with corrective lenses, even bifocal and "multifocal" lenses. Do not use spectacles intended for protection from radiation and glare from the sun indoors where your vision may be impaired by the tinted lenses. Spectacles should be fitted to your eye bridge size and temple length. The spectacles should fit comfortably over the eyes. The frame should be close to the face and fit comfortably over the bridge of the nose. Keep spectacles clean and clear of scratches. Store spectacles in a dry, clean place where they will not fall or be stepped on. Scratched or damaged spectacles interfere with vision and do not provide protection. Safety spectacles alone do not provide protection for the eyes for fumes, vapors, liquids, and large particles.

Safety goggles provide a secure shield around the entire eye area to protect against hazards coming from many different directions and spread the force of impact over a larger area around the eyes. Goggles are most effective when worn with safety spectacles and are also provided with impact resistant lenses that can be tinted if required. Goggles that are unvented or indirectly vented will provide protection from splash hazards. Goggles can be provided with fog free coatings. Face shields are required when pouring hot liquids, using acids to clean rocks or fossils, breaking rocks with hand or mechanical equipment, and while dressing grinding wheels. Face shields should never be used without goggles or and safety spectacles and are available with protective head gear and chemical hoods.

Select the proper level of eye protection prior to starting any activity, and remember that the risk of passing by a level because "it will take only a second and I will be careful" could cost you one of your most precious possessions, your sight.

(Ed.) The best protection afforded by protective eye wear occurs when you are either facing the danger directly or turned 180 degrees away from the it. Do not turn sideways to the danger so that a particle or a liquid can hit your eye in that position, particularly if you are not using wrap-around protective eye wear.

Continued from page 1 (February meeting)

Gene Bearss talked briefly about the way our monies are raised and allocated:

- dues only pay for the Club Bulletin;
- admission to the May Reunion Meeting pays for the Moose Hall rental and the caterer;
- the sales tables pay for things such as the Memorial Color Fund, library gifts or donations, possible purchases of unusual minerals for the Sales Table, and the honorarium for the May Reunion speaker. (In recent years the sales table has taken in about \$700.00.)

Gene Bearss and Bob Janules stressed the need for better quality and rarer sales table specimens. At the moment we are overloaded with New England, Francon, and Mont St Hilaire specimens. Members are asked to please donate some higher-end specimens that we can mark up to more than \$2 to \$5. If anyone has some Foote Mine minerals those would be welcome, as that location is now closed.

It was agreed that at future May Meetings we should aim for a cap of \$300.00 for the speaker's honorarium.

We discussed the value of having important speakers and advertising the May Meeting further afield. Secretary Pat Barker suggested that the Moose Hall could probably only hold two more round tables. If we are going to plan for many more people, we shall have to look for a larger hall. She urged members to check on this at the May Meeting.

The business meeting was adjourned at 12:30.

Member Josephine MacIndevour surprised us with delightful cucumber and seasoned cream cheese on pumpernickel open-faced sandwiches. This along with Margaret Stewart's popular vegetable dip, Inge Jewell's donation of an attractive dish of fruit and nuts, along with Pat Barker's new recipe brownies, and Herb Fieldings' almond cookies, made a excellent lunch.

Respectfully submitted, Pat Barker, Secretary pro tem

MAY REUNION MEETING

Please remember that the proceeds from the May Meeting helps keep the cost of dues down significantly. The moneys received from admission pay the costs of the hall and the meal only. The sales table provides moneys for Color Fund donations, contributions to libraries which provide meeting sites, and other worthwhile purposes. Please consider donating some quality specimen for the sales table. The quality of material has been down significantly over the past several years. Donations of books, hardware and hobby related material would also be gratefully received for the Chinese Auction.