



## 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. 287

March, 2008

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#### **Current Meeting**

Saturday, March 15th  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Chelmsford, MA  
Doors open at 9 am

Map and driving  
directions are on page 7

#### **Next Meeting**

Saturday April 19th  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Chelmsford, MA

For information regarding  
**MEETING CANCELLATION**  
due to inclement weather,  
Joseph Mulvey  
(603) 880-4018  
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### **Next Meeting:**

Saturday, March 15, 2008, Trinity Lutheran Church, Chelmsford, MA. Doors open 9 am. Check newsletter page 6 for map and directions.

### **2008 Dues are Over-due!**

**VERY** last chance for uninterrupted membership. Send your \$12 for individual and \$15 for family membership to the treasurer, (address on page 2). The password for member's area access on the website will expire on April first for those that do not renew. **ONLY 2008 DUES PAID MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE AN APRIL 2008 NEWSLETTER!**

### **Topical theme selected for the March MMNE meeting**

The meeting topic for the March MMNE meeting program will be "Microminerals of Moat Mountain". See detailed meeting plan on page 2.

### **MMNE SECRETARIAL REPORT FOR SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2008**

(The following minutes are based on an MP3 recording of the meeting posted on the "Members" page of the MMNE website.)

The February meeting convened with eleven members present.

Mike Swanson announced that he had informed other officers that he has had to resign as club President due to "difficult personal family problems." Vice President, Joe Mulvey, stated he would be happy to take over the role of President for the remaining two-month period until April when new elections occur. In view of a question by Gene Bearss, Mike indicated that there should be no need for the election of an interim vice president for such a brief period.

Mike said that most everything was done that had to be done for the May Meeting. He said that Bill Henderson was set as the speaker and that Bill would be giving two short presentations and one longer one.

Joe Mulvey reported that he had investigated ways of displaying specimens from the microscope directly to a projector. He said that B & H Photo sold a device called the Ken-A-Vision Videoflex, which will do just that. He said that it could be attached to a laptop or a monitor as well. Joe indicated that the device was significantly discounted through B & H and cost \$359.

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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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MMNE Website: <http://www.micromountersofnewengland.org>

## 2008 CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

### March 2008

15 - MMNE meeting, Trinity Lutheran Church, doors open at 9 am

### April 2008

19 - MMNE meeting, Trinity Lutheran Church, doors open at 9 am

### May 2008

17 - Annual MMNE mini-symposium, Elks Lodge at 91 Park Street, Hudson, MA, doors open at 8 am

## Meeting topic for the March MMNE meeting program

The Palermo Mine theme for the February 2008 meeting was well received all by members present. Many brought their Palermo micros for others to view. Dana Jewel, however, brought a most amazing MACRO specimen, a small cabinet size piece with several 1 cm lustrous Wardite crystals.

The theme for the March meeting will be **Micro Minerals from Moat Mtn. NH.**

To participate in this program theme, members are encouraged to:

1. Bring their Moat Mtn specimens, (known and unknown), to the meeting.
2. Swap and/or Give-away some of your extra Moat Mtn. specimens. A designated table will be assigned for member swap offerings and give-aways.
3. Select some of your better, (and perhaps unknown), Palermo specimens for viewing by other members.

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**February 2008 Secretary's report, continued from page 1**

He said that one problem was that, with B & H, the club would not be able to preview it (in the event that it was not suitable) and return it without incurring a sizeable restocking fee. Questions were raised regarding the device's apparent odd configuration, its resolution and quality. Mike Swanson wondered whether Joe had looked into the equipment that Jim Ross sells through Absolute Clarity. Joe said he would do so prior to the April meeting and that he would also try to answer questions raised by members about the Ken-A-Vision product.

Mike Swanson asked club members if they had any locality or mineral species suggestions for the March meeting topical presentation. Gene Bearss suggested minerals from the Moat miarolitic cavities. No objections were raised. Bob Janules wondered about the date of the next meeting. It was determined to be March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Because some members have photos in 35 mm slide form, a discussion developed regarding ways to transfer them to a digital format. Tom Mortimer said that there was a little device available for \$99 that would allow one to do it. He indicated that it was "not a speedy process" but that it worked. He said that once in digital format one could display them via Windows XP Slide Show or Microsoft Power Point. They could also be stored to disk. Not being able to be present in March, Tom said he would bring the device to the April meeting. .

Joe Mulvey said that members could start to bring donations for the May Meeting sales table in March. Anna Wilken asked Tom if he had the file that explains the color price coding for the sales table minerals. Tom said he didn't but that since it was published in the bulletin last year it would be easily retrieved.

The February meeting adjourned. Tom Mortimer followed with a digital presentation of Palermo minerals gleaned from Mindat.com

Respectfully submitted,  
Bob Wilken, Secretary

A couple of February meeting photos below, courtesy of Merrie Porro.



Bob Janules and Mike Swanson viewing a tray of Palermo specimens.



Anna enjoys a "goodie" while Dana explains a fine point of Palermo collecting to Joe.

## Micromounters of New England mini-symposium, May 17, 2008

Our Annual Micromounters of New England mini-symposium is rapidly approaching. Location will be the Elks Lodge at 91 Park Street, Hudson, MA. A map is on the back page as well as on the back of the sign-up sheet.

Handicapped accessibility to the space is very good with no stairs or physical barriers.

Our speaker is our own William Henderson, who will present talks about the Microminerals of Italy and Minerals of the Palabora Mine in South Africa.

As always, we need donations for the symposium from all members as our stocks of both sales and give-away material are running quite low. . Please bring your donations to the March or April meeting for color coding. If each MMNE member would consider donating ten to fifteen specimens for the sales table and a couple of flats or egg cartons of material for giveaways, there would be plenty for everyone. Please remember: Your registration fee covers only part of our operating expenses – your donations cover the rest.

We also need items for the silent auction and door prizes which could include hardware, books, posters, other printed material, and mounting supplies (or anything else a micromounter might be interested in). If you have items for the auction, please tell us what you have at the March or April meetings so tags can be made in advance. If you cannot be at any of these meetings, e-mail Anna Wilken [www.microxl@mfire.com](mailto:www.microxl@mfire.com) or call at 603-536-2013.

Please bring your donations with you to the meeting, or get them to Hal Herard ahead of time.

Please put prices on them whenever appropriate.

If you are bringing mounted material for sale, please color code them with price stickers (dots) as follows:

\$1.00 yellow,

\$2.00 red,

\$3.00 green,

\$4.00 silver,

\$5.00 gold.

Anything above \$5.00 needs to have an actual price tag.

If you do not have the colored stickers, group them by price category, and they can be marked at the meeting.

The meeting officially convenes at 9:00AM, but anyone who can come in at 8:00AM to help set up the various venues (sales, silent auction, etc.) will be appreciated.

Please sign up promptly for the meeting so that we can get an accurate count for the caterer. Bring a friend or two if you can. There is plenty of space.

All reservations which include lunch must be in the treasurer's hands before May 12<sup>th</sup>. Walk-ins can pay at the door, but extra meals may not be available.

Please fill out and send in the **Registration Form** on newsletter last page as soon as possible.

## Microscope Digital Camera Considered for Club Purchase

Club member Joe Mulvey has been researching the purchase of a microscope adaptable digital camera for use at our meetings. Joe contacted Bob Dykes of Ken-A Vision Mfg Co., Inc. to learn more about their digital camera offering. The following are some excerpts from his email dialog with Bob Dykes, (*Bob's response is in blue italic print*):

The Micromounters of New England, <http://www.micromountersofnewengland.org/> a microscopic mineral study group that has been around for about 40 years. In mineral circles we are rather famous because some of our founding members contributed so greatly to the discovery of new minerals.

I have been charged with the goal of finding a method of allowing a member to bring in specimens (micros) and be able to display them at will using our 'scope and projector.

We now have a nice Panasonic projector that connects to most video devices.

I saw the Flex-cam digital and have a few questions.

1. The price seems much lower than what I and other members expected. While this does seem to be an educational tool, we are leery that it may not live up to expectations.
2. What is the resolution of the camera? I saw 500 lines which makes me think the resolution is rather low - fair for screen display, not so good for taking pictures of photo quality.  
*\* 500 lines equates to approx. 640 x 480 in digital resolution. For photo quality images, I recommend, 1024X768 or above. Our model 7200UM has 1280 x 960 SXGA resolution. \*his requires the use of a computer\**
3. How exactly do I attach the camera to the microscope? Does it overlay the ocular or do we remove it and the camera fits inside?  
*Our Video Flex products have a built-in 34.5mm eyepiece adapter and ships with a 28mm eyepiece adapter which fits over the existing microscope eyepiece.*
4. Is there anywhere around Massachusetts and New Hampshire that we might see this device? I am nervous to recommend the club buying some of these sight unseen!  
*We have a stocking distributor in Lititz, PA. – NewComm Technologies (ph# 717-626-8448) that can arrange for one of their people in your area contact you to set up a product demo*
5. Based on what I have said is there a different product would you recommend?  
*For a microscope/Camera + projector setup I would recommend the MVP-150 which has 1024x768 resolution through its VGA connection. If you have a computer, you can take advantage of our Megapixel Digital Video Flex (model 7200UM) which has 1280x960 SXGA resolution for a microscope/Camera + Computer + projector setup.*

### Southeastern New Hampshire Mineral Club to Sponsor 4th Annual Rock, Gem and Mineral Show

**WHERE:** Dover Veterans Community Center, 156 Back River Road, Dover, NH  
**DIRECTIONS:** Take exit 7 from the Spaulding Turnpike and follow signs.  
**DATES & TIME:** April 26, 2008 9:00am to 3:00pm  
**ADMISSION:** \$3.00  
**THE SHOW:** 20 Tables of minerals, gems, jewelry and other mineral-related items  
**CONTACT:** Scott at Higgs7@msn.com, Earl at ESPmineral@aol.com, Brian at cshore108@yahoo.com



## 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.



Micromounters of New England  
Annual Reunion Meeting  
May 17, 2008  
The Elks Lodge  
91 Park Street, Hudson, MA

|           |                   |   |
|-----------|-------------------|---|
| Schedule: | 9.00 AM – 12 Noon | Registration, informal session<br>Speaker, silent auction, sales table. |
|           | 12 Noon – 1.00 PM | Lunch (catered)   |
|           | 2.00 PM – 3.00 PM | Speaker   |
|           | 3.00 PM – 4.00 PM | Informal session  |

**PROGRAM**

**Bill Henderson, Jr. is giving the following talks:**

- 1) Microminerals of Italy
- 2) Minerals of the Palabora Mine in South Africa
- 3) Thomaston Dam, CT.

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Registration Form

Registration Fee:                      Members \$ 20.00      Non-members \$ 25.00

Please make checks payable to: Micromounters of New England (MMNE)  
c/o Anna Wilken, 79 Meadow Lane, Campton NH 03223

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 20.00 each

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 25.00 each

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form by Saturday May 10.2008. This is the closing date for ordering a meal.

48 hour notice is required for cancellation with refund.