



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. 238

May 2002

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Next Meeting
Saturday, May 18
Annual Northeast
Meeting
Moose Club
Marlborough, MA

**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

MMNE Meeting, March 23, 2002

The March micromounters meeting was held at the Public Library in Westford, MA. Because the theme of the meeting was Palermo Mine #1 in North Groton, NH, we had a large gathering. Bob Whitmore attended, and it was great to see him looking so well after his recent illness. He very kindly spent a good part of the morning and mid-day identifying unknown Palermo specimens. He had brought the current list of all minerals found there to date. (The list is included on page 5. There are apparently a significant number of unknowns pending identification, some of which came to light as a result of this session. Ed.)

Gene Bearss and Mike Swanson had some very attractive micromounts that they were selling to raise money for the Club. At the end of the meeting, they had sold \$73.00 worth, and a check for that amount was sent to the Treasurer.

The slide program of North Groton minerals was conducted by Gene Bearss. Eighteen of Gil George's slides, which had been lent to the Micromounters by Bob Whitmore, began the program. Then Gene showed many attractive pictures that he, Bob Janules, and Scott Whittemore had taken, mainly of Palermo and also some from the Charles Davis Mine.

Pat Barker had a small display of micros available so people could see some Palermo Mine #1 rarities "up close and personal." This included goodkinito on palermoite, schoonerite, whitmoreite, meta-torbernite, and a dozen or so other less common minerals of the 116 found there.

After the program, Julie and Herb Fielding regretfully told us that they feel they no longer will be able to hold the July meeting at their cottage on Winnisquam Lake. This very popular and well-attended meeting will be greatly missed. We do thank them for their hospitality these past six years.

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IN MAY:

**ANNUAL NORTHEAST MEETING
SATURDAY, MAY 18**

MOOSE CLUB: MARLBORO, MA

SPEAKER: GENE BEARSS

**TOPIC: MICROMOUNT COLLECTING IN
THE MAINE GRANITE PEGMATITES**

MMNE Meeting, April 20, 2002

Ten members of the MMNE met on the top floor of the Shrewsbury, MA Library at 10:00 AM. President Cahoon called the Annual Meeting to order at 12:15 PM.

The By-law changes were explained. They remove two "directors" as officers and replace them with the Membership Chairman and the Editor. (We have not had Directors as officers for years.) This By-law change was voted on and approved.

It was noted that there was an error in the listing of the new Slate of Officers in the April Newsletter. The corrected Slate of Officers was approved as corrected:

President: Jim Cahoon
Vice-President: Bob Janules
Treasurer: Anita Hubley
Recording Secretary: Chris Hubley
Corresponding Secretary: Pat Barker
Membership Chairperson: Brian Porter
Editor: Mike Swanson.

The next order of business was the subject of members selling minerals at regular meetings (not at the May Meeting). It was moved, seconded and carried with one vote against that members may sell minerals at regular meetings with 20% of the profit going to the club treasury.

Next it was moved and seconded that members may sell non-mineral items at regular meetings.

Continues on page 5

The *Newsletter* is the official publication of the Micromounters of New England (MMNE). The last by-laws revision was 1966. The MMNE is a member of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) (cf <<http://www.efmls.org>>) and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) (<http://www.afms.org>). Material from the *Newsletter* may be copied in other rock and mineral publications if credit is given to the author and the *Newsletter* editor. The author has reserved all rights in which case written permission must be obtained from the author. If there are questions regarding copying contact the editor. The club address is c/o the Corresponding Secretary. Meetings are held monthly, September through May, except for December, and usually on an informal basis in July and 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.

Officers for 2001/2002

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Dues are for the calendar year (1/1 through 12/31), payable to the MMNE, and mailed to the membership chairperson.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

May 2002

3-5 CMMA Annual Conference, Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario

4-5 39th Annual New England Gem & Mineral Show
 North Shore Rock & Mineral Club, Topsfield Fair grounds, Rte 1N, Topsfield, MA

10-12 Maine Mineralogical Symposium
 Senator Inn, Augusta, ME

Contact: Woodrow Thompson (207) 287-7178
 e-mail: woodrow.b.thompson@state.me.us

18 Saturday - MMNE NE Meeting, Marlborough, MA

25-26 Mont St.-Hilaire collecting trip

June 2002

21-23 Northern California Mineralogical Assoc. conf.
 Contact: Sugar White, 2 Summit Ave.
 Redlands, CA 92373-6848 (909) 798-3635

e-mail: rbwhite@gte.net

29-30 Gilsun Rock Swap, Gilsun, NH

July 2002

6 - Mont St.-Hilaire collecting trip

20 - MMNE meeting at home of Gordon Jackson
 94 Borough Rd., Canterbury, NH. Pot luck.

27 - Mont St.-Hilaire collecting trip

August 2002

9 - 11 Springfield Mineral Show, Big-E Fairgrounds
 West Springfield, MA

September 2002

7 - Mont St.-Hilaire collecting trip

October 2002

26 - Mont St.-Hilaire collecting trip

A BOLT FROM THE BLUE

Mel Albright AFMS, Safety Chair

There are thunderstorms around and lots of thunder and lightning. But the storms aren't over you, so relax and carry on. No problem? You'll just duck into the car when it gets to you.

Continued next column

Continued from previous column "A bolt from the blue"

Guess what - you may be about to die from lightning. The old phrase "A bolt from the blue" as conveying surprise didn't come from imagination. It came from real lightning strikes.

But, a bolt from the blue is misleading. Lightning NEVER comes from a clear blue sky. It is ALWAYS caused by thunderstorms. But, the "from the blue" part may be true. Thunder can hit as far as 10 miles from a thunderstorm where the sky may indeed be blue.

So, take care to protect yourself whenever you can hear thunder. Sound travels about a mile a second. So, thunder from 10 miles away may seem unrelated to any lightning you see - in fact, you may not be able to see the lightning strike. When you see a flash, start counting: "one thousand one, one thousand two, ..." until you hear the thunder. Divide the number of seconds by 5 and you'll know about how far away the storm is.

I've been near two lightning strikes. It isn't fun. On one, I was driving a tractor raking an alfalfa patch. Suddenly my hair stood on end and electricity began sparking back and forth between the strands of barbed wire 50 feet away. Guess who was the highest object around. I shut off the tractor and dived for the ground. I didn't reach the ground before lightning hit the fence about 100 feet away. The cloud was not overhead.

Another time, we were playing miniature golf when our hair stood up and sparks started flying around the wire for the lighting system. A huge cottonwood tree was in the middle of the course. We squatted and ducked our heads. Lightning did strike then, but it hit a chimney 2 blocks away and 2 power poles - 3 bolts! The thunder was deafening!

So, remember - you can indeed be hit by a bolt from the blue. If the hair on your head starts standing up, you are in trouble and have little time... You have seconds at most to protect yourself. Do not be the highest object around. Squatting with your head down is considered by many to be the safest position. But, stay well away from trees, power poles, chimneys, antennae, or anything that stands tall. If you're in a boat, ball up with only your bottom on the boat.

MINERALS OF THE PALERMO #1 MINE

(72 Phosphates, 116 Species)

As of March 20, 2002

presented to the MMNE by Bob Whitmore on April 23

Sulfides	Phosphates	Phosphates (cont'd)
Arsenopyrite	Anapaite	Phosphoferrite
Bornite	Arrojadite	Phosphophyllite
Chalcopyrite	Angelite	Phosphosiderite
Galena	Autunite	Phosphuranylite
Loellingite	(Meta-Autunite)	Pseudolaueite
Pyrite	Barbosalite	Pseudomalachite
Pyrrhotite	Beraunite	Rockbridgeite
Sphalerite	Bermanite	Roscherite
	Beryllonite	Samuelsonite
	Bjarbyite	Sarcoside
	Brazilianite	Schoonerite
Birnessite	Caoxenite	Scorzalite
Clarkeite	Carbonate	Sinkankasite
Compreignacite	hydroxylapatite	Stewartite
Ferrocolumbite	Childrenite	Strengite
Ferrotantalite	Crandallite	Strunzite
Goethite	Diadochite	Tavorite
Hematite	Dufrenite	Torbernite
Magnetite	Eosphorite	(Meta-Torbernite)
Pyrolusite	Ernstite	Triphylite
Schoepite	Fairfieldite	Vivianite
Todorokite	Ferrisicklerite	Wardite
Uraninite	Fluorapatite	Whitlockite
Vandendriesscheite	Foggite	Whitmoreite
	Frondelite	Wolfeite
	Goedkinite	Xanthoxenite
	Gordonite	
	Goyazite	
	Graftonite	
Albite	Hagendorfite	
Almandine	Heterosite	Carbonates
Bertrandite	Hinsdalite	Cerussite
Beryl	Hureaultite	Malachite
Biotite	Hydroxylherderite	Rutherfordine
Bismuthinite	Jahnsite	Siderite
Illite	Kryzhanovskite	
Microcline	Laueite	
Montmorillonite	Leucophosphate	
Muscovite	Lithiophilite	
Nontzonite	Ludlamite	
Oligoclase	Messelite	
Perthite	Metavivianite	
Plagioclase	Mitridatite	
Quartz	Montebrasite	
Schorl	Moraesite	
Uranophane	Palermoite	
Zinnwaldite	Paravauxite	
Zircon		

Continues from page 1 (March, 2002 meeting)

At that point Gordon Jackson most kindly offered his home in Canterbury, NH as the next July meeting place. He will get in touch with Mike to give him a date in July and a map. Since April is traditionally a business meeting, there will be no theme. Pat Barker (in the absence of any other officers), as chairman of the program committee, thanked all those who contributed slides, minerals, and snacks to a very successful meeting.

P. Barker, Secretary pro tem

Continued from page 1 (April 2002 meeting)

This would include books, microscopes, light sources, camera equipment, mounting supplies, etc. The seller would not be required to give a percentage of the sales to the club unless they wish to do so.

The members went over a checklist of items needed for the upcoming May Meeting.

Members at this meeting found the Shrewsbury Library adequate, with kitchen facilities handy, but the long distance to the elevator made transporting scopes and minerals difficult. The three floor trip to the basement restrooms was rather a trial.

For this meeting Mike Swanson had donated to the club an imposing collection of Lane Quarry micromount material. Gene Bearss had donated some mounting supplies and Bennett Quarry micros, and Pat Barker had given some old time Francon material, while John and Margaret Stewart had provided some interesting treasures from the "way-back" in their shed.

P. Barker, Secretary pro tem

USING A DIGITAL CAMERA FOR MICROPHOTOGRAPHY

Steve Sorrell @steve.sorrell@au.pwcglobal.com
Via micromounters@yahoo.com
(with permission of the author)

I use a Sony digital camera with 3.3 Megapixels, and take all photos the microscope with telephoto on to stop "vignetting." Many of the images at <http://www.crocoite.com> are from simply holding this camera against the eyepiece. The microscope optics are also important. I use an Olympus microscope with zoom up to 40x. Good images of crystals as small as 0.3 mm are possible. I generally leave the autofocus on but override exposure times (can have from 1/1000 to 8 seconds), and use quartz halogen for lighting (camera compensates automatically for this). The Sony has an LCD screen on the back which means you don't need three hands ...) and of course, the benefits of the digital means you can take many, many shots to get the best possible outcome. Definitely worth the initial outlay.