



MICROMOUNTERS OF NEW ENGLAND NEWSLETTER

#218

November, 1999

The MMNE was organized on November 8, 1966, for the purpose of promoting the study of minerals that require a microscope.

PRESIDENT

Jim Warner
23 June Street
Auburn, MA 01501
(508) 752-8328

VICE-PRESIDENT

Jim Cahoon
31 Parker St.
Maynard, MA 01754
(978) 897-8221

SECRETARY

Patricia Barker
P.O. Box 810
Campton, NH 03223
(603) 536-2401

TREASURER

Janet Cares
18 Singletary Lane
Sudbury, MA 01776
(978) 443-9180

EDITOR

Johannes Swarts
PO Box 846
Bradford, VT 05033-0846
(802) 222-4875
email:
johannes_swarts@gdt1.com
fax: (603) 643-6808

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

No meeting in December.
Jan. 8th, Westford, MA Public Library. Doors open at 10 AM.

Next meeting

The next MMNE meeting will be held on Saturday, November 13th at the Burlington, MA Public Library. Door open at 10 AM. No program has been announced. As always, bring 'scopes, extra extension cords, and any extra material you may have for giveaways or trades.

An urgent request from our President

Don't be shy! We are not looking for professional speakers. We are not asking for highly skilled, extremely knowledgeable PhD types that usually talk way over our heads – we save those for the May meeting. We just want (need!) individuals who can share their views and experiences with a group of people, usually 20 or fewer. We're looking for you!

We ask for anywhere between a 20-minute to an hour-long presentation. We encourage question and answer periods. Visual aids such as slides, photos, and maps are also helpful. Hey, how hard can it be? El Presidente has given a talk and he's a relative greenhorn. It just takes a little courage to stand up in front of a small group. We're a pretty understanding audience and we don't tend to heckle (much...). I've been told by several of the newer members that they are afraid that we would find their stories boring, or that they're not really knowledgeable on the subject and therefore fear ridicule.

I believe most, if not all, of our members would agree that as long as you are talking rocks, especially micromounts, you have our interest and undivided attention. We do not ridicule or pass judgement. Rather, we would help and encourage anyone who is willing to step up, but may be a bit shy or feel awkward speaking in front of a group.

Having been Vice President and now President of MMNE, I find it awkward to stand in front of the smaller monthly groups and even harder for our May meetings. I still get nervous. I fumble words and feel silly, but I find that our members are very understanding and extremely tolerant, and I thank them for that!

I encourage anyone in our micromounting family who wishes to give a talk to let us know. Perhaps you could talk about how you got started in micromounting, or the results of your latest field trip, or...

All we ask is that you have confidence in yourself and to trust in our members to not make you feel silly or boring. This is a hobby – in some cases an obsession – which we all enjoy, and we want to help each other to get as much out of it as possible. So don't be shy! Get up and let us know that you've been stung by the micromounting bug while enjoying the natural beauty of New England.

If you would like to give a talk or know of someone who would like to, please contact MMNE President Jim Warner. Address and telephone number are listing in the masthead on page 1. Best times to call are before noon anytime during the week.

A brief message from the Editor

As some of you may know, I've recently moved to a newly purchased home in Bradford, VT. Home repairs and moving responsibilities kept me from the computer last month, so no October newsletter. Now that we're settled in, I'll be back at my duties again. Thanks for your patience. As always, contributions to the newsletter are eagerly accepted.

October 2, 1999 Sunapee Show

The change in date of the Sunapee Show from August to October didn't discourage the Micromounters of New England. Eleven showed up in our special micromounter's room - but not all at once. Three scopes were in operation, and members drifted in and out all day.

We were delighted to greet former member Muriel Hopkins, and, hopefully, three new members: Earl Packard of Rochester, Ken Moak of Northwood, and Kelly Capman of Rutland, VT. Kelly told us that the Burlington Club is forming a micromount group, and he would like our club to meet at their Show next year.

October 9, 1999 Fogg's Meeting

The gathering at Forrest and Vera Fogg's home was smaller this year due to many people being away for the long holiday weekend. But those that did attend enjoyed the weather and foliage, delicious food, and the first look at some of Brownie Thompson's material.

Only a brief informal meeting was held. Janet showed us the handsome plaque that she and Steve had received at the Baltimore Paul Desautels Symposium as new members of the Micromounter's Hall of Fame. Janet and Steve had a really hair-raising trip to the Symposium, chased by Hurricane Floyd!

There was a discussion about how the MMNE had become the recipients of Brownie Thompson's duplicate micros. Pat said that after months of her telephoning Brownie's relatives, who live in Vermont, they agreed to let Saco Valley Mineral Club members go to Brownie's home on the day that the family members were dividing up the furnishings, prior to putting the house on the market.

Ed MacKenzie, Jim and Cindy Homes, and Pat and Bob Barker arrived at the time designated on a bitterly cold day, and we were given free rein to clean out the minerals in the cellar, the "square-dancing room," and the garage beyond. The Thompson relatives had brought back from Vermont all the papers to do with the Saco Valley Club: minutes, bulletins, and correspondence. Needless to say these were very gratefully received.

The Micromounters were given the duplicate micromount material because Brownie was a long-time member of our club. The Saco Valley Club retained the larger specimens for their annual auction.

Janet presented Vera and Forrest with a 500 piece mineral jigsaw puzzle as a little thank you for opening their home to us once again. Gordon Jackson was thanked for arriving early in the morning to help Forrest and Vera set up the tables and chairs.

See you in Burlington in November,

Pat Barker, Secretary

DIRECTIONS TO THE BURLINGTON, MA, PUBLIC LIBRARY

From Rte. 128 take exit 33N onto Rte. 3A. Go approximately one (1) mile to the town common. Take a right just before the common, and just beyond the post office. Follow along the edge of the common to Center Street. Turn left past the police station and take a right on Sears Street. The library is on your right. Doors open at 10AM.

