



# MICROMOUNTERS OF NEW ENGLAND NEWSLETTER

November, 2000

no. 225

*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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## Next Meeting

Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>, Burlington, MA  
Public Library

Dues are \$7.00/year and due  
on January 1st, payable to  
the Treasurer.

New 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.

## Next meeting

The next meeting of the MMNE will be held Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> at the home of member Jim Grandy in Westminster, VT. Directions are as follows – On I-91 heading north into Vermont, take Exit 5. Head east and take the first right, which will be Westminster Heights Rd. Proceed south. The road name changes to Kurn Hattin Rd. at School St. (on the right). Stay on Kurn Hattin Rd., which becomes quite winding. Take the first right onto Parker Rd. At the confluence of three roads, take the right (Rathbun Rd.). Jim's house is the first house on the right – a blue house with a gray garage, house number 24.

Jim will be providing coffee and a look at his extensive mineral and book collections. Please bring a casserole, sandwich makings, salad, or dessert, as visiting members will provide lunch. Also remember to bring extra power strips and cords.

## Future meetings

The next meeting will be held at the Burlington, MA Public Library on November 18th. There will be no meeting in December.

## Errata

In last month's newsletter, I described a field trip to Gold Hill, UT. A mention was made of the phosphates (vivianite, metavivianite) from Utahite Hill, UT. That should have read 'variscite' and 'metavariscite'.

## A message from the President – Jim Warner

It's nice to get back to regular meetings after the long summer break. Hope everyone had opportunities to go out field collecting. I'm a bit embarrassed (and frustrated!) to say I did not collect even once so far ... and that's with spending two weeks in "Copper Country"! This has not been easy when I've seen two trips to Palermo, a trip to the Harvard and the Berry mines go by unattended by myself. What's worse is that I've broken into and nearly depleted my "winter stash". I desperately need to replenish this before it goes "critical"!

Anyone who has gone collecting and thinks they have an interesting find or an intriguing story, is encouraged to either write something up for the bulletin, or if you think you can give a talk about it for about 20 minutes or so, we welcome your effort.

I guess this is a kind way to say that we are looking for speakers at our regular monthly meetings and articles for our bulletin. All we ask is that they have an interest to the micromounting hobby. For the talk, you can use any format you choose, (i.e. ... slides, pictures, whatever). But we are encouraging ALL members to participate in both the bulletin articles and monthly oral presentations. We are in pretty desperate need of both! We are also looking for more biographies of our members. Come on folks, don't be so shy! You can submit them to the Editor or send them to Pat Barker so she can help out.

Ed Hakesley is currently working on some new venues for our monthly meetings. We will be passing this information, as well as updated maps to you as soon as we can.

I have written the manager of the Moose Lodge in Marlboro to pencil us in for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every May from now on. And a reminder ... Next May (2001), our meeting will be held on Sunday, the 20th. It will revert to Saturdays after that.

### **A notice about the Presidency**

I have given serious consideration and have decided not to accept a fourth term as MMNE President. This is my third year as President with a year as Vice President (acting as President for most of that year), prior to the big gig.

I believe I have done a fair job for the club (for someone who has very little organization skills in his own life!). I feel I have done what everyone has asked of me. When I got suggestions, all I could do is bring them up for vote with the members. And if I thought the suggestion was warranted, I fought a bit extra to get it approved. But I always gave each a fair shake. Unfortunately, many of the suggestions were denied.

I am letting you all know well in advance to the April elections, that I will not continue as President. I ask each and every member to look at yourself and see if you are up to the challenge (and at times it can be!).

I believe I've made several new friends while in office. Some of them have been members much longer than myself. And I've been told that I have upset several others. Believe me, this was never an intention of mine by any means. So, I feel it is best to pass the position over to someone less controversial.

I do need to state very clearly here, that if someone is not nominated in April, the position of President will become vacant, as I will not continue. This job must be filled to ensure the club runs smoothly. So it is up to each and every member of the club to consider taking on this position.

I have truly enjoyed the challenge, but realize my time is up. I will most likely continue to help the club in taking on another task so as to help keep the club running efficiently. I will, however, continue towards my goal to have (at least periodic) learning workshops. I will then have more time to work with Ed Hakesley and Jim Grandy to work out the strategies for these.

I appreciate all of you that have worked with me in my efforts to run the club, and I thank every single member for letting me serve you in this capacity. I will do what I can to continue to contribute to this wonderful club.

Thank you

Jim Warner, President, MMNE

### **Other Club News**

At the September meeting, Brian Porter was elected membership chairperson. Details of his responsibilities will appear in a future newsletter.

Janet Cares seems to have been quite ill lately, although reports are conflicting as to the nature of her infirmity. I'm sure she would welcome a note or card from MMNE members.

### **ARIZONA COLLECTING: THE PLANNING STAGE**

**Bob and Anna Wilken**

At some point in the frigid days of December, Anna suggested that we go to Arizona to mineral collect during my March vacation week. Well, the ball was put in play. But as I often will do, I kind of thought...okaaayyy... Anna will plan it. But as time passed and she didn't ...and I didn't...it looked like we were going nowhere. When the issue came up somehow later in January and it became clear I was the one to do the planning, I finally got my duff in gear.

The computer, more specifically the Internet, proved to be an absolutely wonderful resource. As I worked with it more and more during the planning stages of our trip it became very clear that had I attempted to plan such a trip ten or even five years earlier the effort would have required months and months. In our age of instant gratification the Internet makes for almost instantaneous communication.

As a subscriber to the "Rocks and Fossils" interest group list, I put out a request for help saying that we were interested in collecting microminerals in Arizona in March. Though I only received two responses, one was from a geologist (Rick) at the Arizona Geological Survey in Tucson. He had wide knowledge of minerals and mines as well as of safety and trespassing concerns. He made recommendations concerning publications, collecting books and topographic maps. And, he talked to local collectors that had pretty recent information that he could pass on to me. I couldn't have been luckier to have found such a willing and helpful friend.

In the meantime Anna arranged to borrow whatever back issues of "Rocks and Minerals" and "Mineralogical Records" that contained articles on Arizona mines and collecting sites. Since many of the articles were old, we had no way of knowing if the sites were open to collecting. In some cases the mines might be active and in others they might be closed to collecting...something we confront frequently in the Northeast. Rick was able to help somewhat with this issue.

In the meantime I got out my Masmils CDROM that contains the latitude and longitude and other vital data of tens of thousands of mines worldwide. Since I have a GPS unit, I thought the coordinates would help to locate many of the mines and also take a certain amount of fear out of getting lost in an environment quite alien to us. Combined with the DeLorme "Street Atlas USA" and "Topo USA" I was able to locate the specific mines on a map. DeLorme maps indeed already show many, many mines on the maps. This was all to get a feel for where the mines were and to get a general idea of itinerary. Another resource turned out to be the University of Arizona Mineral Museum databases, one for the regular collection and one for their micromount collection. So, I was able to get an idea of what specific minerals they had in the collection from specific mines.

Via one search engine or another I searched out anything I could find on mines and minerals of Arizona. It wasn't long before I discovered several sites with information and photos of minerals from the Purple Passion Mine. It was clear that this was a fee site and the people operating the mine were very helpful and very interested in telling the story behind the Purple Passion. Armed with an e-mail address and phone numbers it wasn't long before the visit was arranged with one of the mine claimants, Bill Gardner.

Bill served to expand our horizons and he volunteered to take us "round the mountain" to the Monarch Mine, roughly a thirty-minute ride through the boonies from Purple Passion. He also gave us directions to another interesting mine for micros called the Sammy Dog (North of Tucson) to which he and some partners had also owned the mineral rights. And, when expressing an interest in Tonopah-Belmont Mine he put us in contact with Bill Hunt. Bill Hunt co-wrote the Min Rec article on the site in 1983. With a quick call Bill volunteered to meet us near Wickenburg and to lead us to the mine as well as several other sites in the same vicinity. All these willing, friendly, helpful people were putting some real flesh on our itinerary.

As our plans progressed we obviously booked our flight, a jeep and our motels. It became painfully clear that all the mines we wanted to visit were not going to be possible. Flying into Phoenix on a Saturday our itinerary shaped up as follows:

Sun:	Purple Passion	Wickenburg (from Phoenix 1 hr)
Mon:	Tonopah-Belmont	Belmont Mountains west of Phoenix
Tues:	AGS & Sammy Dog Mine	Somewhere (!) near Tucson
Weds:	The Total Wreck	Empire Mountains near Tucson
Thurs:	The Omega Mine	Helvetia District south of Tucson
Fri:	Mines in Flux Canyon	South of Patagonia

Our lodging boiled down to one night in Phoenix, one in Wickenburg, two in Tucson and three in Patagonia, AZ. for the last 3 nights.

We felt quite confident that our trip would be successful because of all the time invested in the planning. Yet there was still the uneasiness associated with going off in the desert. We knew that if we got lost or if we couldn't find a mine, there would be very likely no one to ask. What about scorpions and rattlers? What if our jeep broke down? There were lots of unknowns even with all the planning. It put an edge on the trip to be sure. But, all we could do now is wait for takeoff day.

(to be continued next month)

Micromounters of New England, Sept. 9, 2000

The Micromounters of New England met Sept. 9th at the Auburn, MA Public Library. Sixteen members and a guest, Edmund Oteson of Auburn, attended. The meeting was called to order by President Warner.

He and several other members reported a new e-mail address <www.egroups.com> where micromounters can chat, exchange duplicates, and information.

The problem of late bulletins was brought up again, although everyone seems to have received their bulletin this month. Jim said he can't reach Hans Swarts by e-mail, and Janet Cares said she couldn't reach him either, but others have reported no problem reaching him by phone. Jim and Janet said someone has offered to take over as editor, and they asked for a vote to replace Hans. Pat Barker, Gene Bears, John Stewart, and Brian Porter questioned this plan, pointing out that Hans puts out a good bulletin, that he has recently moved his home, and his e-mail has changed as well. Unless Hans wishes to give up the job it didn't seem appropriate to relieve him of the task as bulletin editor when he wasn't present.

Brian Porter said that he had had the same experience. He had volunteered to be Membership Chairman and later was told that he had been replaced at a meeting he was unable to attend. Pat was replaced when she was in Tucson, Gene pointed out. Janet said it was a violation of the Constitution not to have both a Corresponding Secretary and a Recording Secretary. Pat remarked that we haven't had two Secretaries since Shelley Monahan had left.

The vote to remove the Editor was set aside. The President will try to reach Hans at least a couple of weeks before a meeting to remind him that a bulletin is due. Pat offered to be Secretary Pro tem for this meeting.

Does anyone have the name of the man (Ross ?) who renovates microscopes and whose company is called Absolutely Clarity? Margaret Stewart said she might have it on the May Reunion list.

Jim said he has been in touch with the Moose Lodge, and we can reserve the hall for the May Reunion from now on, if we wish. This would save any confusion, such as we are having this year, when we must change the day to Sunday instead of Saturday. This was voted on, and it was agreed to settle on the third Saturday in May.

Pat told members that Forrest Fogg is in a nursing home in Concord after a bad fall, but that Vera is in the process of having a wheelchair accessible bedroom and bathroom built onto the house. Members are encouraged to send cards to let Vera and Forrest know that we are thinking of them.

Janet Cares hadn't prepared a treasurer's report at this time, but at the October meeting she will have the rundown on the May Reunion Meeting: expenditures and expenses.

Gene Bearss reminded members that we have more money in the treasury than we are supposed to. He recommended that we make a \$100.00 donation to the Color Fund of Rocks and Minerals. He and Woody Thompson will have a micromount related article on the Estes Mine in an upcoming issue.

The question of new maps was brought up. Jim Grandy is supposed to be sending a map to the Editor for the October meeting. The Nov. meeting will be at the Burlington Library. It was suggested that we get some new maps, using the internet map programs.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Barker Secretary pro tem