

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. 250

November, 2003

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Next Meeting

Chelmsford, MA.
Chelmsford PublicLibrary.
9:00am - 3:30pm.
Map and directions are on the back page

For information regarding
MEETING CANCELLATION
due to inclement weather,
contact President Jim
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OCTOBER 11, 2003 SUNAPEE SHOW GATHERING

The Sunapee Show on Saturday this year was held on an absolutely top color, foliage-viewing day. It was dazzling. The chairlift was busy all day taking leaf-peepers up the Mountain.

The MMNE had our usual childcare room. Thank you Capital Mineral Club! Twenty curious passersby or would-be micromounters visited the room to chat, greet friends, and look at micro minerals. Also nine members of our Club were present. Two microscopes were available for five hours.

At 4:00 p.m. seven MMNE Members gathered around a table in the lunchroom to talk about the future of MMNE. Micromount member, Gordon Jackson, who is President of the Capital Mineral Club generously offered to advertise "a Micromounters' Swap Day" at next year's Capital Club Show.

Pat Barker

October 18, 2003 REGULAR MEETING AT VERA FOGG'S HOME

President Cahoon called a brief business meeting to order at 12:00 noon. Ten Members and one guest were present at Vera Fogg's lovely home.

It was moved and seconded, and unanimously carried to have Bob Janules as our speaker at the 2004 May Reunion meeting. He will discuss and show slides of "Conway Granite Minerals." Between now and May we will actively promote the May Meeting and lecture.

Once again we discussed the \$500.00 amount voted on several years ago as a memorial to Frank Leighton, Gene Mechler, Forrest Fogg, and Les Hitchings. This money was to be sent to the Rocks and Mineral Magazine "Color Fund." Jim said that he would check to make sure Rocks and Minerals had received the money.

At the November meeting we will vote on donations to the "Color Fund" in the memory of Marcelle Weber and Ted Stanescki.

Gene Bearss spoke briefly about his experiences at the Baltimore Symposium. He wanted to thank Anita Hubley for the picture she took of him receiving his Micromount Hall of Fame Award from Quintin Wight. That picture appeared in our October Bulletin. He also expressed appreciation for the support of Anita, John, and Chris Hubley, Brian Porter and George and Doug Rambo at the Symposium.

Jim Cahoon called attention to the outstanding color e-mail pictures of Bob Janules' recent article on the Mascot Mine. Jim urged all members to get a copy of this article in color. Bulletin Editor, Mike Swanson, told Jim this will be a feature of some future bulletins.

Pat Barker, Secretary, said she hopes to go to Tucson this February, and she may have to miss some icy meetings, as well.

MMNE member, Hal Herard, said that he was the last President of the New England Prospectors at the time it was dissolved. He has since donated the remaining money (\$255.00) to the Newry, Maine Mineral Park.

Members present thanked Vera Fogg for her hospitality and for providing a pretty, partly sunny day. There were still some fall colors to enjoy.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Barker, Secretary

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 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.

DUES are \$10/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.

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS: SHOWS

December 2003

6-7 - Bristol Gem & Mineral Club 31st Annual Show, Beals Senior Center, 240 Stafford Avenue, Bristol CT.

MICROMINERAL RELATED CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIUMS

November 2003

7-9 - Cleveland Micromineral Symposium. Cleveland Museum of Natural History, 1 Wade Oval, Cleveland, OH
Contact: Dick Green. 1745 13th Street, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223. (330) 929-2395. jgreen2@neo.rr.com

22 - (Saturday) - MMNE meeting, Chelmsford, MA. Chelmsford Public Library. 9:00am - 3:30pm. McCarthy Meeting Room. Up front stairs.

22-23 - Worcester Mineral Club 28th Annual Jewelry, Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show. National Guard Armory, 701 Lincoln St., Worcester, MA. 10AM to 5PM.

December 2003

MMNE - No meeting.

April 2004

2-4 - 32nd Annual Atlantic Micromounters Conference. Tyson's Westpark Hotel, McLean, VA. Info & Registration: Steve Weinberger, cweinber@bcpl.net.

July 2004

7-12 - EFMLS/AFMS Convention & Show. Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse. State Fairgrounds. Syracuse, NY.

FROM THE EDITOR

The October and November *Newsletters* were e-mailed to all members with a known e-mail address. All of the black and white pictures seen in the hard copy edition were published in color in the e-mail edition. The October e-mail edition seems to have worked much better than my first attempt at an e-mail edition which was done on Microsoft Publisher. This version was done using Microsoft Word and jpeg file pictures received from several members. The cost of putting color into the regular edition is prohibitive, but color in the e-mail edition is free (and the photos in the October issue came out beautifully). If you are interested in receiving the *Newsletter* via e-mail, and did not receive either the October or November issue via e-mail, e-mail me (msmicros@crocker.com) your current address. If the e-mail copy works well for you, and you do not want or need the hard copy, please notify me - so far, fifteen members have been removed from the hard copy mailing list.

Since we have the capability of printing photographs, please submit photos of MMNE members at work or play, mineral specimens, or mineral localities - preferably with a short (or long) article attached. All comments, for better or for worse, will be happily received. Remember, this is your *Newsletter*, so help keep it interesting for everyone.

THE MINERALOGY OF MICAS FROM MONT SAINT-HILAIRE, QUÉBEC, CMMA-2003

Andre Lalonde

WHITE OR PALE MICAS AT MONT SAINT-HILAIRE

Muscovite $\text{KAl}_2\text{AlSi}_3\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2$

Muscovite is found in the hornfels unit along bleached fractures in the hornfels, often as rosettes in association with quartz

Polyolithionite $\text{KLi}_2\text{AlSi}_4\text{O}_{10}\text{F}_2$

1. Pseudo-hexagonal rosettes in pegmatite pockets and cavities, often with natrolite Tan-brown, silvery-white when a lot of serandite is present, frayed edges, radiating clusters Golden brown, honey -brown platy coatings inside cavities, between feldspars Radiating clusters of yellowish polyolithionite in altered pegmatite of chalky-white feldspars
2. Lavender-rose polyolithionite schist associated with yofortierite, in altered pegmatite 3. Dark, light weight, friable schist with amphibole and annite 4. Pale brown plates in marble xenoliths, with carletonite and pectolite

Tainiolite $\text{KLiMg}_2\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{10}\text{F}_2$

1. In marble xenoliths , associated with pectolite, diopside, calcite, carletonite, often as pale brown sheets within small vugs in the xenoliths 2. lithian phlogopite rimming tainiolite
2. With ancylite in pegmatites??

DARK MICAS AT MONT SAINT-HILAIRE

Annite $\text{KFe}_3\text{AlSi}_3\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2$

Annite is found in the syenite units, blades are oxyannite.

Phlogopite $\text{KMg}_3\text{AlSi}_3\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2$

Phlogopite is found in pectolite marble xenoliths Small prisms of lithian phlogopite are a clear brown looking down the c-axis.

Siderophyllite $\text{KFe}_2\text{AlAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2$

Siderophyllite is found in chalky-white almost powdery albitite rock, very rare at MSH. A very good match to the theoretical formula

Ferrocaldonite $\text{KA}_{12}\text{AlSi}_3\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2$

The images which accompanied the lecture are available on CD- rom.

Contact Mike Skebo: 22 1 Hendrie Ave., Burlington, ON, L7T 4 B2 905-681-2073 mskebo@cogeco.ca

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Membership News

Please welcome the following new members:

Marlene and Bob York, PO Box 758, Conway, NH 03818-0758, (603) 356-4424

Mathieu Butler, 980 Main St, Apt. 47, Woburn, MA 01801, (781) 932-3445, mbutler@empirix.com

MASCOT MUSINGS (continued from October issue)
Bob Janules

Schulenbergite- $(\text{Cu}^{2+}, \text{Zn})_7(\text{SO}_4, \text{CO}_3)_2(\text{OH})_{10} \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ Schulenbergite forms on the surface of the dump rocks as a flaky crust that is a lively sky blue color with a pearly luster. Individual crystal aggregates are composed of curved foliated sheets that overlap into crude hemispheres and rosettes.

Serpierite- $\text{Ca}(\text{Cu}^{2+}, \text{Zn})_4(\text{SO}_4)_2(\text{OH})_6 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ Serpierite is rather uncommon, forming as crusts upon the dump material. The crusts are made up of individual flat needles of a light to medium blue color. This mineral can easily be mistaken for blue Mascot aurichalcite. If large enough individual blades are present, an examination of the terminations will distinguish the minerals. Aurichalcite with its orthorhombic symmetry features "picket fence" terminal ends, while the serpierite shows the oblique angle characteristic of monoclinic minerals. Aurichalcite will fizz when exposed to acid, while serpierite will not.

Siderite – $\text{Fe}^{2+}\text{CO}_3$ - Siderite is an abundant gangue mineral and is present in large blocks within the Mascot dumps. When fresh it is tan in color, but when weathered it is brown. Some siderite chunks contain cavities lined with euhedral rhombs of siderite to 2cm in maximum dimension. Quartz, silver, chalcopyrite, sphalerite, cerussite, chamosite and anglesite have all been found within these siderite vugs

Silver – Ag - Silver occurs as thin to stout wires to several mm in length. The silver wires are often branched and coiled into intricate nests. Some specimens have been found where the wires are uncoated with a metallic luster. More often, however, they are tarnished or have a rusty brown growth on the surface. Gold and copper colored wires are likely tarnished silver specimens. The matrix in which the silver is found is that of vuggy siderite with abundant chalcopyrite.

Smithsonite – ZnCO_3 - Smithsonite forms as a crust with white, yellow or pale green rounded crystals with a frosted outer appearance. It is found usually on the surface of massive sphalerite. Sharp individual crystals are rare. In one specimen smithsonite crystals have a tapering pinecone shape, in another they show a crude prism with a sharp trigonal termination.

Sphalerite – $(\text{Zn}, \text{Fe})\text{S}$ - Sphalerite is common in massive form. It is dark brown, nearly black in color with prominent cleavage. Good crystals are sometimes found within the siderite vugs. Single tetrahedra are rare, usually Mascot sphalerite forms as composite crystals.

Crystals of **Calcite** and **Fluorite** from the Mascot have been reported by reliable sources. I haven't seen the specimens and don't want to comment on them here. A manganese oxide of undetermined species coats the surface of dump boulders.

There are also several Mascot unknowns that may prove interesting. One forms as lemon yellow platy crystal crusts. SEM EDS analysis shows only lead and sulfur. It doesn't look like anglesite; other possibilities with that chemistry would include **Lanarkite** and **Scotlandite**. One specimen has been found featuring colorless tabular plates. This mineral may be **Leadhillite**, but it has not been tested. Another Mascot unknown forms as sky-blue to greenish flat disks with a pearly luster and a crudely hexagonal form. Analysis shows it to be a copper-zinc carbonate. The rare mineral **Claraite** is a distant possibility.

The study of the Mascot minerals is not a solitary endeavor on my part. I thank other members of the Mascot team for their help. They include Gene Bearss, Ed Hakesly, Gordon Jackson, Tom Mortimer, Jim Nizamoff, Al Plante, Art Smith, Vince Valade, Scott Whittemore, and Bob and Anna Wilken. The photographs taken by Scott Whittemore were of specimens in the collection of Anna and Bob Wilken.

NB: Please correct the following formulas from the previous part of this article: **Brochantite** - $\text{Cu}^{2+}_4(\text{SO}_4)(\text{OH})_6$, **Chamosite** - $(\text{Fe}^{2+}, \text{Mg}, \text{Fe}^{3+})_5 \text{Al} (\text{Si}_3, \text{Al}) \text{O}_{10} (\text{OH}, \text{O})_8$, **Cuprite** - Cu^{1+}_2O

"THE MISSING YEARS"**What I Learned When I Read My Minutes 1985-1993**

when the minutes were not published in the newsletter - Pat Barker, Secretary

1985

The flagpole at the Hudson Library had been totally eaten out by carpenter ants (except for a skin of multi-layers of paint. A gathering of MMNE members was in the 3rd floor room set aside for the Hudson Historical Society, listening to a lecture from a Historical Society member, when suddenly a terrific gust of wind came up. Some of us were transfixed seeing the huge flagpole out in the yard being propelled right at the window of the room. With no chance to move or do anything but gargle and point in alarm, the pole smashed into the room showering us with glass shards and wooden splinters. Amazingly no one was hurt, but it was right up there in excitement value with the ten minutes or so that an elevator full of MMNE members got stuck between floors at Boston University.

1987

At the May meeting, Tony Manderino spoke on "Computers to Organize Mineral Collections. (Speaking for myself, that lecture topic was a decade too early.)

In July we attended the first meeting at John and Martha Reiner's new home in Center Harbor. We missed our annual swim in Winnepesaukee, but otherwise things were just the same --- wonderful. The feasting (and swimming) was continued in August at the Barker cottage on Lake Sunapee in conjunction with the Sunapee Mineral and Gem Show.

1988

Janet Cares called attention to three new minerals, named in 1987, called petedunnite, benwilsonite, and montroyalite, all familiar names.

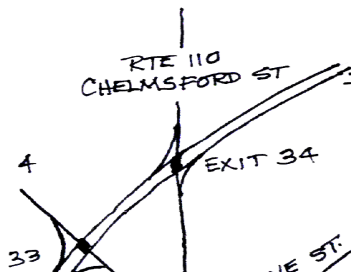
Pete Dunn was made an honorary member of our organization.

At the May Meeting, in Ashland, MA, Lou Perloff spoke on the "Phosphates of the Black Hills. To thank him for returning his honorarium, we sent \$100.00 to Rocks and Minerals "color bank fund". We had previously donated money to a special issue in color, for that magazine, but Janet proposed that we inaugurate a "MMNE color bank fund" for members that had passed away or for people that we wanted to honor. This plan was heartily approved, and I have records that the organization donated \$100 eight times to that worthy cause, between 1988 and 1999.

In July our Saturday meeting was held at John Reiner's. How strange it seemed without Martha. She had been able to enjoy her new home for only a year. The next day a large group of Micromounters accepted Bob Whitmore's invitation to visit underground at the Palermo Mine, which had been pumped out to levels not seen in 40 years! "Quite an adventure," I noted in the minutes. I especially remember the log cabin shelter and storage place that had been under water all those years

The Show Committee of the Capital Mineral Club gave us a special room with private bathroom at Mount Sunapee State Park. (This was a pleasant change from the open space that we occupied, earlier years, on the second floor, up a long staircase). "It was filled to capacity," I wrote.

(to be concluded in the January Newsletter)



MMNE Meeting
Saturday, November 22

Chelmsford Public Library
Chelmsford, MA

9:00am - 3:30pm.
McCarthy Meeting Room.
Up front stairs.

Michael W. Swanson, Editor
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