

# 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. 300

October, 2009

## OFFICERS 2009 - 2010

### President

Joseph Mulvey  
(603) 880-4018  
bassmeister\_2000  
@yahoo.com

### Vice-President

Gordon Jackson  
(603) 783-4493  
gsj8544@aol.com

### Treasurer

Tom Mortimer  
(603) 673-4039  
tjmort@comcast.net

### Secretary

Bob Wilken  
(603) 536-2013  
microxl@mfire.com

### Director

Gene Bearss  
(207) 324-3610

### Director

Bob Janules  
(603) 424-9269  
janules@worldnet.att.net

### Newsletter Editor

Joseph Mulvey  
(603) 880-4018  
bassmeister\_2000  
@yahoo.com

### Current Meeting

Saturday, Oct 17, 2009  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Chelmsford, MA  
Doors open at 9 am

### Next Meeting

Saturday, Nov. 21, 2009  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Chelmsford, MA

Map and driving  
directions are on the last  
page of this newsletter

For information regarding  
**MEETING CANCELLATION**  
due to inclement weather,  
Joseph Mulvey  
(603) 880-4018  
bassmeister\_2000  
@yahoo.com

**W**elcome to the October edition of the MMNE newsletter!

### **September Meeting**

The September MMNE meeting was extremely well attended! All the tables were filled even with the notable absence of Gene and Marie Bearss and Anna and Bob Wilken. We welcomed new member Michael Hutchins and greeted many people whom we had not seen since the symposium. Our next meeting will be on Saturday, October 17 at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Chelmsford, MA. As usual, doors open at 9am and a short business meeting will commence around 11am. I look forward to seeing you there!

### **Palermo Trip**

The September 26 field trip to the Palermo Mine was a great outing! This superb collecting opportunity, in conjunction with the Boston Mineral Club was thoroughly enjoyable. Thanks to Nate Martin's field trip planning experience and attention to detail, this trip went off without a hitch. I think most of our club members migrated up to the Palermo #2 dumps. Varying luck was had by all. I wish I had gone up there myself. I spent my time on the freshly overturned #1 dumps, and then hiked up to the left above the flooded #1 mine. For further details about the trip, please see page 7.

### **Outreach**

As I drove home this event got me thinking once again about how to encourage a younger contingent to join the club. A younger crowd, with new perspectives, who may be willing to pick up some of the administrative reins in the future. It occurred to me that another aspect to making our presence known could be to donate small collections to local high schools. My thought is that if members each brought in 3 or 4 mounted, labeled specimens – specimens from anywhere, things that may not even rate as sales table fare at the symposium, we could then assemble say twelve packs of minerals. Put together a small box with the twelve pack, a bunch of our MMNE brochures, maybe a CD of some of the clubs best articles, an invitation to join us as visitors and send these packages to public and private high schools around the Chelmsford, Lowell, Bedford area.

### **2010 Website Contest**

There will be a 2010 AFMS website contest. They have renamed it from webmaster to website. I do expect that the MMNE web pages will be overhauled during the winter months. I can certainly make it prettier without losing any of the functionality. What would be nice would be some submissions by our members. Elsewhere in these pages you will see a large non-technical article by your President – Webmaster – Newsletter Editor – Keeper of Give-a-ways. Now I am not complaining about my burden, but I do request that members please give us better stuff than (hopefully) humorous banter I came up with this month. My mineralogical knowledge is limited; yet so many of our members are so highly respected and capable of writing even a few paragraphs about their finds, past experiences, remembrances of trips and events. If you have old slides of minerals or localities, please mail them to me, or lend them to me at the next club meeting. I will scan them and return to you as quickly as possible.

### **Club Equipment**

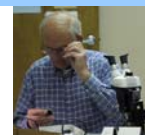
Currently, the club digital camera is on loan until the October meeting. If you want to get on the list for this or any other equipment, please contact Joe Mulvey. An updated equipment list will be posted in the November newsletter.



Bob Janules at the  
Sept. Meeting



Club member  
Suzanne Wall and two  
visitors



Gordon Jackson

The **Newsletter** is the official publication of the Micromounters of New England (MMNE). The last by-laws revision was May 16, 2009. 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 2009-2010

President: Joseph Mulvey	24 Skyline Drive Nashua, NH 03062-3516	(603) 880-4018	bassmeister_2000@yahoo.com
Vice President: Gordon Jackson,	PO Box 600, Canterbury, NH 03224-0600	(603) 783-4493	gsj8544@aol.com
Treasurer: Tom Mortimer,	3 Roberts Rd., Amherst, NH 03031	(603) 673-4039	tjmort@comcast.net
Secretary: Robert Wilken,	79 Meadow Lane, Campton, NH 03223	(603) 536-2013	microxl@mfire.net
Director: Bob Janules,	17 Woodward Rd., Merrimack, NH 03054	(603) 424-9269	janules@worldnet.att.net
Director: Gene Bearss,	33 North Ave., Sanford, ME 04073-2943	(207) 324-3610	
Editor: Joseph Mulvey	24 Skyline Drive Nashua, NH 03062-3516	(603) 880-4018	bassmeister_2000@yahoo.com
Website: Joseph Mulvey	24 Skyline Drive Nashua, NH 03062-3516	(603) 880-4018	bassmeister_2000@yahoo.com

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

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## ***Up and coming club mineral shows***

**October 2-4—Baltimore, MD, Baltimore Mineral Society – Paul Desautels Memorial Micromount**

Symposium of the Baltimore Mineral Society (BMS), on October 2–4, 2009

**October 17-18 -- Bristol, CT,** Bristol Gem and Mineral Club 37th Annual Gem & Mineral Show is scheduled for the weekend of October 17 and 18, 2009. The show will be held at the Beals Community Center at 240 Stafford Ave., Bristol, CT. The hours are 9:30am to 5:00pm Saturday, and 10:00am to 4:00pm on Sunday.

**November 3-4 – Stamford, CT** Stamford Rock and Mineral Society Annual Show - 20th Annual Show will be held at the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center, 90 Harding Rd. Greenwich, CT

**November 14 – Ontario, CA,** CMMA Fall Mini-Conference The Burlington Arts & Cultural Centre, 1333 Lakeshore Road, Burlington, ON Contact: Bill Lechner at 416-438-8908 or [bill.lechner@rogers.com](mailto:bill.lechner@rogers.com)

**November 21-22-- Worcester, MA** Worcester Mineral Club. Saturday and Sunday 10am to 5pm at National Guard Armory, 701 Lincoln Street, Worcester, MA Take I-290, exit 22, Main Street Shrewsbury towards Worcester, through light, up hill, armory and parking lot on left. Contact: WMC, P.O. Box 2278, Worcester, MA 01613 413-477-0107

#### **2009-2010 Micromounters of New England Meeting Agenda**

Saturday October 17, 2009.....Competition: cubic crystal structure, any locality, any species  
 Saturday, November 21, 2009.....Micro swap – everyone swaps a specimen at the “special swap” table  
 Saturday, January 16, 2010.....Competition: Most specimens on one piece, size less than 2cm<sup>3</sup>  
 Saturday, February 20, 2010.....To be determined at fall 2009 meetings  
 Saturday, March 20, 2010..... To be determined at fall 2009 meetings  
 Saturday, April 17, 2010..... To be determined at fall 2009 meetings  
 Saturday, May 15, 2010.....The 2010 Micromounters of New England Annual Symposium

**Palermo Field Trip – Saturday, September 26, 2009**

The MMNE had a healthy presence at the joint MMNE-BMC fieldtrip. We had about 6 members and there were also 3 or 4 joint members of both clubs. Tom Mortimer reports good luck both at the freshly overtruned Palermo #1 dumps as well as up the trail at Palermo #2:

*"I spent about two hours digging on the overturned lower dump area. I found one pale blue apatite specimen, the crystal about 1 cm long. Should make a decent thumbnail, if I can successfully trim it down. Also found a few pale blue apatite micros.... but that was about it for the lower dump for me.*

*After hiking up, I spent about a half-an-hour at the Palermo #2 site. There was a modest amount of triphylite on the dump. Hans Swarts and Mike Swanson were pounding away at the exposed triphylite on the ledge face. I picked up about a dozen small phosphate pieces with signs of small vugs from the dump. One of these small pieces had some fair jahnsite micro crystals, but that is likely the only piece I will save. Other minerals I observed in the Palermo #2 pieces that I brought home include:*

- Jahnsite
- Strunzite
- Apatite, (chalk white, and pale blue)
- Rockbridgeite
- Mitridatite
- Diadochite
- Triphylite
- Ferrisicklerite
- Pyrolusite
- Sphalerite -- nice euhedral micros....I had not seen these from Palermo before, although they are in Bob's book
- Siderite -- Tan, euhedral, scallop-habitat crystal groups. I have seen this habitat from other localities, but not previously from Palermo
- Pyrite -- nice 2 mm cluster of pyriteohedron habitat, bronze colored crystals. First time I've seen this form at Palermo.



Figure 1 Large Apatite from Palermo #1 Dumps, (c) Tom Mortimer specimen and photo

*All the above came from the turned-over dump area.*

*Attached (figure 1) is a photo of my larger Apatite crystal on matrix... I successfully trimmed it... used my tile saw. The crystal, pale blue, is an honest 1 cm, compound, double terminated, complete.*

Palermo #1 is flooded as high as I have ever seen it. Bob Whitmore and the gang have cleared a new road around the front of Palermo #1 and have peaked that hill on the right side. He intends to plumb the #1 Mine from the opposite direction. Good luck to Bob on this new project and thank you for letting us collect at Palermo all these years!

My collecting was spent mostly on the freshly turned dumps of Palermo #1. Most notable find for me was a hefty quartz crystal with a small amount of matrix attached. I have a bucket's worth of hunches for further exploration under a microscope. JM

Dana Jewell was the leader of festivities for the trip. Dana patiently answered every question with his witty sense of humor and his wonderful background of Palermo collecting.



Dana Jewell carrying a big stick at the joint BMC – MMNE Palermo field trip



**Buying specimens on the web by Tom Mortimer**

Buying specimens on the web is not one of my top choices for acquiring species to fill out my New Hampshire collection. However, as my "NH missing species" list continues to shrink, web purchases have become attractive, especially in instances where the locality may no longer exist or be accessible. My experience with internet purchases during the last few years has taught me to be cautious in these transactions. In this note I will relate the outcome of three purchases. In each case the purchase was made from a well known mineral dealer. I have elected not to identify the names of the three mineral dealers involved, but I would wager that 90% of the readers would recognize their names.

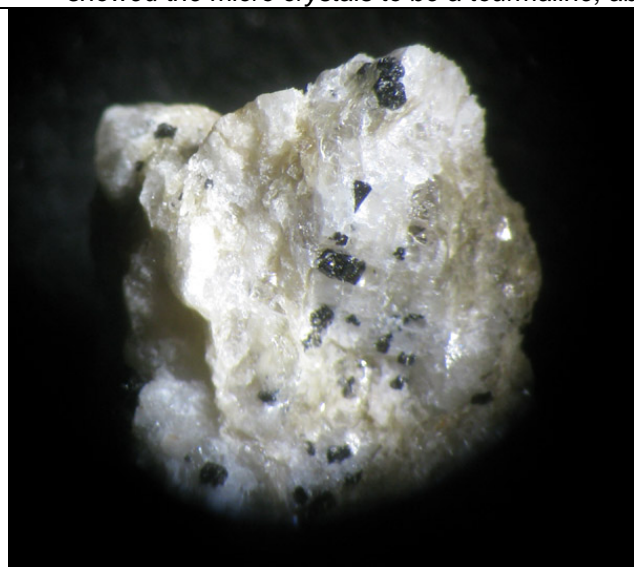
Species: Arrojadite

Locality: G.F. Smith Mine, Newport, NH

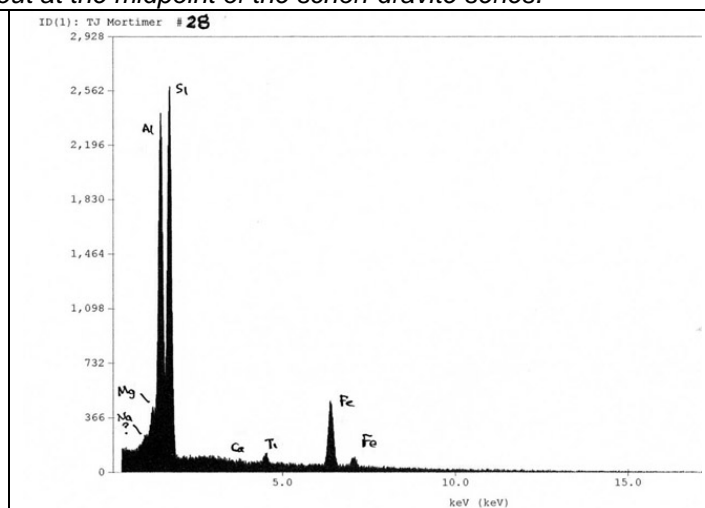
Specimen Description: 1 to 2 mm dark-brown, hexagonal prisms in mica-feldspar matrix.

History: My late friend Vince Valade spotted this small cabinet specimen on a dealer site in 2002. He asked if I was interested in splitting the specimen and the cost. I agreed. Arrojadite is listed by Morrill and other references as occurring at the G.F. Smith Mine. Permission to field collect at this site has been severely restricted for many years.

*Examining my piece of the specimen under the microscope, the dark crystals appeared quite similar to small tourmalines, perhaps the schorl-dravite species group. Most of the small crystals were broken or fractured. I looked at Vince's piece as well and observed nothing different from my own. Not being familiar with all the morphology variants of arrojadite, I accepted the dealer's identification with a tad of skepticism and cataloged it into my collection. Two years ago I started a concerted effort to obtain analytic confirmation of my NH species that had questionable identification. The analysis on this "arrojadite" justified my skepticism. The EDS plot below showed the micro crystals to be a tourmaline, about at the midpoint of the schorl-dravite series.*

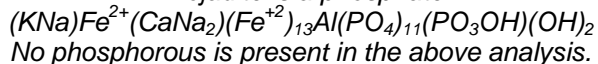


**Schorl-Dravite** GF Smith Mine, Newport, NH (purchased as Arrojadite)



EDS plot of GF Smith specimen black crystal.

Arrojadite is a phosphate:



No phosphorous is present in the above analysis.

Species: Hiddenbergite

Locality: "Keene", NH

Specimen Description: Tennis-ball size specimen with one cm stubby black crystals in light-colored matrix.

*History:* I spotted this specimen on a weekly update of a well known New York dealer. Hedenbergite, a pyroxene, is reported from New Hampshire, but a Keene locality was unknown to me. I "paypal-ed" the \$40. (with shipping) and my specimen arrived a week later. The specimen appeared to be as advertised. However, two weeks later a similar specimen appeared for sale on the same site. This time the listed locality was Keene, **NY!** My specimen contained a white tape label from a previous owner. Close examination of the state initials revealed that it was likely NY instead of NH. A quick check verified that there was such a town as Keene, NY. An e-mail to the dealer confirmed the error. He willingly returned my purchase price with the return of the specimen.

Species: Ixiolite

Locality: “Old Allan Mica Mine”, Alstead, NH

Specimen Description: A black, sub-metallic, massive, thumbnail specimen.

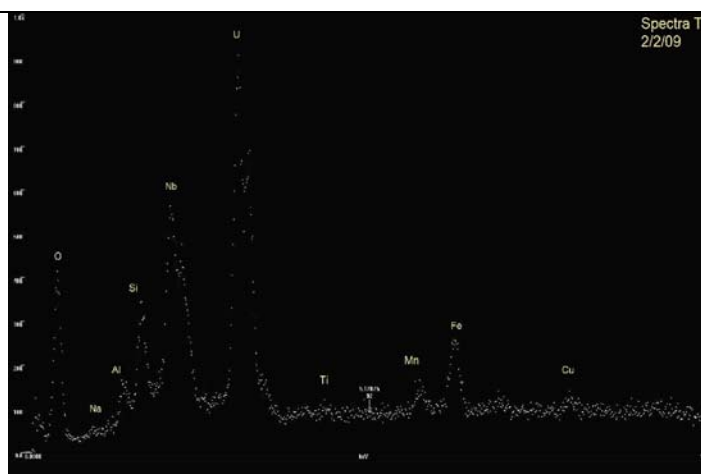
History: This specimen came from a California dealer specializing in rare mineral species. Ixiolite,  $(Ta, Nb, Sn, Fe, Mn)_4O_8$ , has not been previously reported from New Hampshire (at least as far as I could uncover). Phillip Morrill does list an “Allan Mine” in Alstead, NH. Pegmatite Investigations, (pgs. 107 – 110) documents an Allen Mine in Alstead, NH, (note, spelled with an “e”). Communication with the selling dealer stated that the specimen “came from the collection of Joseph F. Lech, Jr.”, (has any reader heard of this collector?) The EDS analysis of this specimen showed a substantial presence of uranium (plot below). The analyst stated he felt the best fit was betafite,  $U^{4+}(Nb, Ti)_2O_6OH$ . He also indicated that “under the (electron) beam, very heavy elements like uranium throw off high energy electrons which interact with the metals of the SEM chamber. The Al, Si, and Cu peaks are probably from the metals inside the SEM chamber.” The specimen was “definitely not Ixiolite.”

Now a New Hampshire betafite would be most satisfying. At this point, I am not ready to leap to that claim as, 1) betafite has not previously been reported from NH, 2) not knowing about the original field collector/owner, there is a possibility of locality miss-identification, and 3) an XRD analysis is needed to resolve the EDS analyst’s “best fit” uncertainty.



**“IXIOLITE”**

Old Allan Mine, Alstead, NH



EDS plot of Allan Mine “IXIOLITE”

**Final note: Perhaps the above examples are uncommon exceptions to internet mineral acquisition. Certainly the risk is much lower when purchasing common, easily recognized, minerals on the web, such as fluorite, calcite, pyrite, etc. But caveat emptor when purchasing rare species from unfamiliar localities. Trust but verify.**

#### 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.

# A Driver's Guide to Copilots

My typical mineral collecting trip is usually launched with very short notice based upon the last second catastrophic failure of other pre-scheduled events that consume all of my available time. Somewhere between home and a mysterious lost mineral locality 120 miles away I find myself wishing there was somebody in the car with me. Somebody

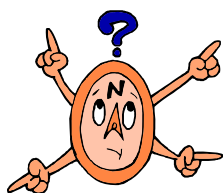
*"Hmmm, maybe I should have taken that left turn in Albuquerque"* Bugs Bunny

with a good map, the ability to use it and the foresight to tell me when the next left comes up *before* I pass it. Simply having a passenger would be great so that somebody could pass me a cold water from the cooler in the backseat, keep an eye peeled for speed traps, coffee shops, tell me jokes and keep an alert for enticing roadside outcrops. Having to do all of these things at once by myself while keeping the car between the lines and at an acceptable speed can be challenging

even during the daily commute; add the unknown factor of new and distant unexplored regions and it is truly an adventure!

Online maps can be nice, but usually, they have at least one quirk or major mistake. MapQuest guided my brother in law all the way from Rhode Island to the opposite side of a mountain in the Catskills flawlessly last spring. While he rightfully chickened out and neglected to take his car up a snowmobile trail straight up the mountain, I was catching very large brown trout on the other side. By the time he found camp, the fishing gods were done smiling on us. Needless to say, he had need for a skilled copilot. Remember that online maps are meant for getting you around cities and towns. Their value and quality once you are in the boonies exponentially decreases their reliability.

*"Forget those blasted MapQuest directions, I'll find it myself"* Socrates



A good copilot will have printouts from MapQuest, Google Maps and a Delorme map book for all states within one day's drive. This copilot will have memorized all of these documents beforehand and recite alternate directions to any locality while simultaneously making me a sandwich. A good copilot will never steer you to the base of a ski lift overlooking a road-less expanse to nowhere, unless that is the true destination.

A good copilot will inherently know the oncoming left is immediately after the hairpin turn and will warn me to take the steaming coffee away from my lips before the large pothole. If I indeed scald myself, my co-pilot will take the coffee away, offer me an ice cube, and cool off the coffee without spilling a drop, all the while feeling guilty for failing to live up to the moniker of "the perfect co-pilot".

During World War II many of our fighter planes had the motto "God is my copilot" emblazoned on the side of their planes. The hope of the pilot was that God himself, acting as the copilot, would see over him and ensure no harm would come to him. For most of us nowadays, our copilot is either our spouse or a mineral-collecting buddy. Especially in the case of a loved one, diligent attention must be given in your determination as to whether you value your spouse more as a wife or as a quality copilot. How you decide will determine whether you live happily every after or spend your golden years living next to your mineral collection in a shoebox.

A good copilot will never relay their uncertainty when not knowing exactly where they are at any given moment. After all, with 3 maps and a photographic memory, re-determining our exact waypoint should only take a few seconds. **Do not distract the driver with unnerving comments like** "Are we supposed to be on this side of the road?"; "Should we have taken that left about 17 miles back?"; "I don't think it's legal to drive on the sidewalk!" or my favorite: "What did that sign say?". If the driver is unable to concentrate on the road, if in fact, said driver is truly on a road and not a two rut trail in the woods, chances are, somebody's gonna roll a vehicle real soon!

Likewise, comments in regard to the quality of the driving skills of the driver should never be questioned, either while the driver is driving or while he is not. A good copilot realizes that if indeed the copilot really knows all there is to know about driving, then perhaps they should swap seats with the poor driver. A good copilot will never be caught praying for his or her own safety due to their perception of apparent negligent driving by the driver.

*"Luckily I keep my feathers numbered for such an occasion"*  
Foghorn Leghorn



A good copilot has been in demand since the beginning of time. While some say Moses spent 40 years in the desert waiting for a sign, it has been revealed to me that he was merely searching in vain for the perfect copilot. Since men first began trying to find stuff without asking for directions, the value of a good copilot has skyrocketed. Wikipedia tells us that H.M. Stanley crossed Africa in search of pioneer medical missionary David Livingstone. After a lengthy year-long search, he finally found Livingstone, sick and emaciated, accompanied by his alcoholic wife, in Zambia. This whole charade could have been avoided if either Stanley or Livingstone had access to a good copilot.

If we do not find anything very pleasant, at least we shall find something new."  
**Voltaire**

A man goes to a party and has too much to drink. His friends plead with him to let them take him home. He thanks them and says, no, as he only lives a mile away.

About five blocks from the party, the police pull him over for weaving and ask him to get out of the car and walk the line. Just as he starts, the police radio blares out a notice of a robbery taking place in a house just a block away. The police tell the man to stay put, they will be right back and they hop a fence and run down the street to the robbery.

The guy waits and waits and finally decides to drive home. When he gets there, he tells his wife he is going to bed, and to tell anyone who might come looking for him that he has the flu and has been in bed all day.

A few hours later the police knock on the door. They ask if Mr. Joe is there and his wife says yes. They ask to see him and she replies that he is in bed with the flu and has been so all day.

The police have his driver's license. They ask to see his car and she asks why. They insist on seeing his car, so she takes them to the garage. She opens the door. There sitting in the garage is the police car, with all its lights still flashing.

Now I have to ask you: Where was his copilot?

*Joe Mulvey is obviously already desperate for newsletter articles after only his 3<sup>rd</sup> edition*

#### Thumbnail Minerals and the International Thumbnail Mineral Collectors Association (ITMCA)

<http://thumbnails.crocoite.com/>

This site is the web presence of the International Thumbnail Mineral Collectors Association (ITMCA) and is devoted to those mineral collectors who are interested in thumbnail size minerals. So what is a thumbnail? Well, a thumbnail size is defined generally as a mineral which will fit into a 1x1 inch perky box. The mineral may be a single crystal, a cluster of crystals, or a grouping of minerals, as long as the overall size is not larger than 1x1 inch and can be viewed without a microscope.

If you would like to join, then please do the following:

- 1) Send an email to Larry Rush ([larryrush@worldnet.att.net](mailto:larryrush@worldnet.att.net)) or Gail Spann ([BikinGail@aol.com](mailto:BikinGail@aol.com)) with your membership details (name, region, email address, whether or not you trade or sell thumbnails, special interests, and a website if you have one, for inclusion on our member list page.
- 2) Join our Thumbnail Google Group for discussions and contacting members.
- 3) Join our Thumbnail Ning Network to add your own content such as trade lists, photos, etc.

#### Worcester Mineral Club Annual Show – November 21-22 (After OUR meeting!)

The centerpiece of the club's year is our annual show held in November. Dates and times can be found on our show page and below. The show provides members and the general public an opportunity to purchase gems, jewelry, fossils, minerals, lapidary, and related publications and equipment. The show features dealers with a wide range of material from children's and beginner level items to advanced collector's items. Prices range from less than a dollar to hundreds of dollars.

November 21-22, 2009 Worcester, MA Worcester Mineral Club. Saturday and Sunday 10am to 5pm at National Guard Armory, 701 Lincoln Street, Worcester, MA Take I-290, exit 22, Main Street Shrewsbury towards Worcester, through light, up hill, armory and parking lot on left. Contact: WMC, P.O. Box 2278, Worcester, MA 01613 413-477-0107

Where can I find those little arrows for pointing to the good stuff? Try one of these websites:

- ✓ <http://www.shercon.com/?action=Store&Category=18&Info=91>
- ✓ <http://www.pemro.com/items.asp?Cc=INSARR&TpStatus=0&Tp=&Bc=>



**A Field Trip to the UK Natural History Museum in London England by Carlos Gristani**

On a recent trip to the UK, my first visit, I spent four days in London. Besides visiting the usual tourist highlights I had an opportunity to visit the Natural History Museum. Unfortunately, after spending most of the day walking around London I only ended up with a bit over two hours for this visit. I headed straight for the Mineral collection, one of many collections in this museum, and discovered that the collection, housed in an enormous hall dating to 1881, was huge. During the time I was there, I only managed to view about a quarter of the collection, meaning that you could easily spend a whole day admiring this natural beauties. At one end of the hall is a room named The Vault and from the name alone you can discern that it is replete with treasures. It is a relatively small room housing a few dozens of magnificent specimens, ranging from minerals to faceted gems, in beautifully arranged displays. As someone interested in minerals, if you happen to visit London don't miss this spot.

I'm attaching a few pictures that I took at The Vault. The quality is very low given that they were taken in low light conditions and without using a tripod. Please don't feel obliged to use them. Just in case that you decide to include them, a short description of each follows... (Carlos is too modest! JM)



figure 1 Gold

**The Latrobe nugget (fig.1)**

Gold, 717 grams, McIvor mine, Victoria, Australia

One of the best examples of crystallized gold known, was found in 1853 and was named after Charles Joseph Latrobe, Governor of the State of Victoria. It is formed entirely of gold cubes, some of which are more than one centimeter across.

**Copper, Bankovskiy mine, Urals region (fig. 2)**

A group of bright copper crystals described as a "matchless specimen". It was collected in the early 1800's



figure 2 Copper

**Silver wires, Kongsberg, Buskerud, Norway (fig. 3)**

Two specimens from the Kongsberg mines which produced some of the most spectacular examples of native silver. Their long wires are attached to the rock in which they grew (calcite & limestone) and were collected in 1834 and 1886 respectively



figure 3 Silver wires

**The crystal box mystery, Siderite, epimorphous after fluorite, Virtuous Lady mine, Devon, England (fig. 4)**

Collected in 1847, this intriguing box formed when crystals of brown siderite were deposited around a cube-shaped fluorite crystal. The fluorite dissolved away and crystals of white quartz and golden chalcopryrite grew in the cavity. It is not known what would have caused the fluorite to dissolve without affecting the siderite box around it.



figure 4 Siderite





A view of the Mineral Gallery, Waterhouse Building

<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/index.html>

The Natural History Museum mineral collection is one of the most important and comprehensive collections of its type in the world. It now contains about 350,000 specimens and, apart from a small number of specialised regional collections, it is organised on a species systematic basis.

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### September 19, 2009 Secretarial Report

President

Joe Mulvey and the members greeted Michael Hutchins as a new club member

Joe said he had been trying to contact Ronnie Von Dommelen to inquire if he would be willing to be the presenter for the MMNE 2010 May Meeting. He said he tried contacting him with a variety of e-mail addresses but got no response. Joe also floated the names of other possible presenters such as Alfredo Petrov, Sugar White and Tom Rosemeier.

Joe said club membership is increasing. The following is a variety of goals Joe had to maintain and improve this positive trend.

- update the on-line club brochure
- print copies of the brochure for members to bring to regional club shows and meetings
- create a five to ten minute movie about MMNE
- give a presentation about MMNE to the North Shore Mineral Club in the fall
- encourage club members to "talk-up" the club whenever possible

Joe asked club members to help with submissions to the newsletter. He suggested that if anyone had old photos or slides having to do with the club he could scan them and include them in the newsletter. Also, he said that an article about our late member, Merry Porro, would be greatly appreciated. Joe said he had contacted the three dealers that have donated items for the symposium in the past. He invited them to submit articles that would perhaps give themselves a little publicity "plug". Likewise, he spoke to Jim Ross of Absolute Clarity regarding an article that would give "an overview of getting started with digital photography".

A reminder was made regarding the combined BMC-MMNE field trip to Palermo for the following weekend. Tom Mortimer said that the club disbursed a check for \$150 to cover a portion of the expenses having to do with the bulldozing of the Palermo dumps. Insurance coverage through Ladd's Agency plus coverage for the thousand-dollar deductible were already arranged. All who attend would be required to bring a hardhat, sturdy work boots and eye protection.

Joe announced that he had spoken to member Ron LePage in Maine. Ron said he would send an assortment of Maine-collected hydroxylapatites and hydroxylherderites to the club. Joe wondered if club members would support one meeting in 2010 to be scheduled closer to members further north in Maine. He suggested it could be combined with a club-collecting trip there.

Joe once again referenced Absolute Clarity's Jim Ross and asked members if it would be a good idea to have Jim present at the May Meeting with a digital photography exhibit. Mike Swanson suggested that Jim might give a short half-hour-or-so presentation in addition to the regular presenter.

Treasurer Tom Mortimer announced that he had transferred the club's account from the Middlesex Bank to a T D North Bank account. He said that Anna Wilken (former treasurer) would give her final report at the October meeting.

Joe thanked Mike Swanson for his early donations to the May Meeting.

Tom Mortimer made an appeal for one club member to help the President-Webmaster-Newsletter Editor (Joe Mulvey). It would be the simple task of printing out the on-line newsletter, making copies and sending them out to those few who do not have e-mail. Tom's second suggestion was to create a system that would help Joe divest himself of much of the rock giveaways he lugs back and forth to meetings. He said a simple sheet or paper card in each box with names, dates and a brief comment regarding the contents would help determine when to dispose of the material.

**MEMBERSHIP FORM, NEW AND RENEWAL**

Membership in the MMNE runs from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>. Dues are payable on or before January 1<sup>st</sup> for the upcoming year. Failure to renew on time will result in cancellation of membership including the subscription to the Newsletter. Please fill out this form and return it with your payment.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street/PO Box Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/Zip :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ **Hard copy via USPS**    or    \_\_\_ **via email to above address**

**Membership type:** Individual \$ 12.00    Family \$ 16.00

Family membership includes two adults residing at the same address and all children at that address under the age of 18. Only one copy of the Newsletter per family membership.

**Newsletter:** The Newsletter is available as hard copy sent through the mail, or via email, which may have color photographs included. Please indicate choice of format. The Newsletter is published in January, February, March, April, May, Summer Issue (June), September, October and November (no December issue), and is sent out approximately two weeks prior to the next scheduled meeting.

Please remit payment to Treasurer Tom Mortimer, 3 Roberts Rd., Amherst, NH 03031

Joe Mulvey, Newsletter Editor  
Micromounters of New England  
24 Skyline Drive  
Nashua, NH        03062

TO: