

# 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. 282

September, 2007

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### Current Meeting

Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup>  
Lutheran Trinity Church in  
Chelmsford, MA  
Doors open at 9 am

Map and driving  
directions are on page 4

### Next Meeting

Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>  
Lutheran Trinity Church in  
Chelmsford, MA

For information regarding  
**MEETING CANCELLATION**  
due to inclement weather,  
contact:  
Michael Swanson  
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## NOTES FROM THE SUMMER OF 2007:

A summer gathering of MMNE members was hosted by Gordon Jackson at his home in Canterbury, NH. Nine members attended this potluck lunch meeting. Perhaps we will hear a first-hand report of this event at the September meeting?

The Micromounters of New England welcomes new members Robert and Elsie Boggs, 10434 - 22nd Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98146-1333.

Bob Boggs writes he "is interested in trading with club members. He likes to trade in miarolytic cavities in granite, as he has material from western locations, Washington Pass, Okanogan Co, WA, Point-of-Rocks NM, Wind Mtn. NM etc." He also has phosphates from New England for trade.

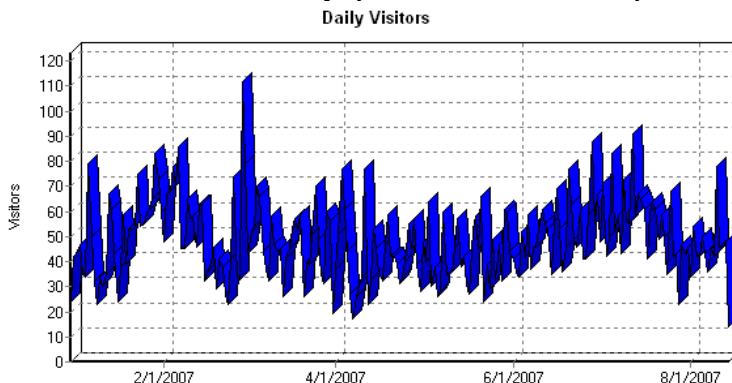
We have received notice that a couple of our most reliable refreshment providers will be unable to attend the September meeting. Please consider bringing an edible donation on Saturday, the 15<sup>th</sup>!

## MMNE NEWSLETTER PLEA:

We repeat our appeal to any and all members who are computer literate and who receive email, NOT to request the printed newsletter. With rising postal rates, this will go a long way to help keep costs and dues as low as possible. And, remember, the newsletter is only available in color via email.

The editor's e-mailed request for newsletter articles from past contributors has met with a tepid response, with one promise of future articles from a single member. Please consider writing an article for a future newsletter issue. Photos and graphics are always welcome.

Our webmaster, Joe Mulvey, provided this recent update on our web page traffic.



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. 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 \$16/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 2007-2008

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### **2007 CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### September 2007

15 – MMNE meeting, Trinity Lutheran Church, Chelmsford, MA, doors open at 9 am (Map and directions on page 5)

#### October 2007

20 – MMNE meeting, Trinity Lutheran Church, Chelmsford, MA, doors open at 9 am

#### November 2007

17 – MMNE meeting, Trinity Lutheran Church, Chelmsford, MA, doors open at 9 am

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## The Micro Collector's Workshop

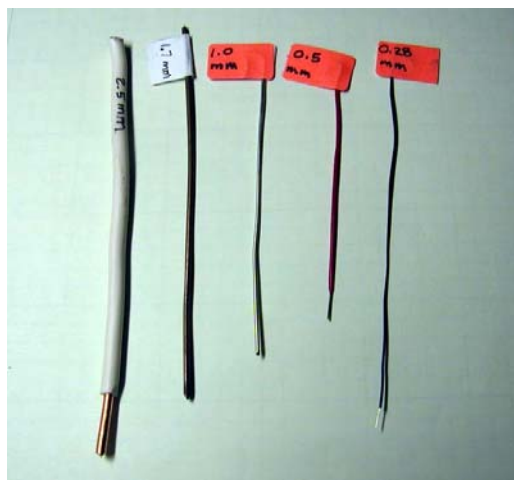
Tom Mortimer

### Estimate Micro Crystal Size Easily

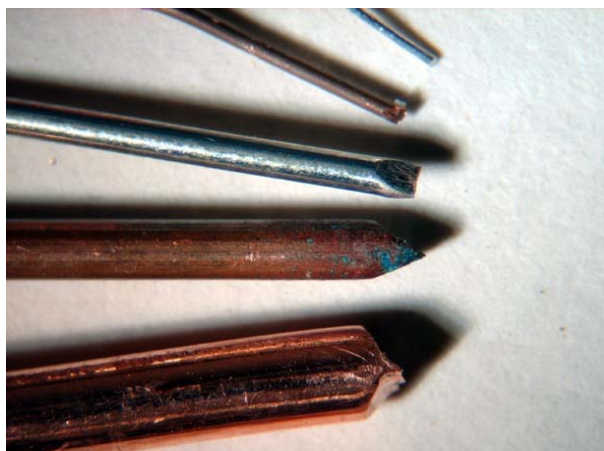
Micro mineral collectors often desire to make an estimate of the size of small crystals they observe through the scope. The crystal size is a valuable reference to include with the catalog data, to add to a photograph, or simply to note on the specimen label. Micro crystal sizes typically span a range of sub-millimeter to several millimeters.

A somewhat expensive approach to size estimation is to purchase a graduated reticule that will fit one's microscope. The cost of a new reticule for my Meiji scope is \$40. A low cost alternative that I have found to work well is to assemble a set of four to six short lengths of electrical wire of varying wire gauges. My set of five wires spans 0.28 mm to 2.5 mm: (0.28 mm, 0.5 mm, 1.0 mm, 1.7 mm, and 2.5 mm). Radio Shack is a good source for smaller gauge wire. Standard copper house wire will provide some of the larger sizes, (#10 house wire is approximately 2.5 mm in diameter). Wire tables on the web, (e.g. [http://www.howstuffworks.com/framed.htm?parent=question260.htm&url=http://www.reade.com/Conversion/wire\\_gauge.html](http://www.howstuffworks.com/framed.htm?parent=question260.htm&url=http://www.reade.com/Conversion/wire_gauge.html)), will allow you to convert the wire gauges you acquire to wire diameters. I taped labels with the millimeter wire diameter to the end of each wire, (Figure 1).

To estimate a micro crystal size, bring the end of the wire close to the crystal, (Figure 3). Selecting a wire diameter near the crystal size is helpful, but not necessary. If the crystal appears to be about half the size of the wire diameter, simply estimate the crystal size to be half the wire diameter.



**Figure 1:** Set of five wire gauges



**Figure 2:** Wire ends under microscope magnification.



**Figure 3:** A 1 mm Chickering Mine Wardite crystal adjacent to 1 mm wire.

**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.

Those coming from the south may want to try an alternate route, exiting from Rt 495 at Exit 33, then taking Rt 4 north to a left onto Davis Rd.... see map below.



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