

Seven NMS members were in attendance on the opening day of the Gilsum Swap, Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup>. When I arrived, Ed Anderson and Don Swenson had already begun erecting Ed's newly acquired awning tent. This was one of the new, telescoping, aluminum framed units. The three of us had it up in short order. The club owned blue tarp awning, with its guy ropes and three section poles, took us a bit longer. This rig always seems to take three cycles around the perimeter ropes to get the tarp symmetrically taught. Card tables and swapping specimens followed soon after.

With our site set up, I ambled down to the pancake breakfast offered in the middle school cafeteria, adjacent to the Gilsum ballfield. This was my first year trying this annual breakfast, preferring, in years past, to stop at the Peterborough Friendly's. Sadly, the Peterborough Friendly's Restaurant is no more, perhaps another victim of our economic times. The \$6 pancake breakfast was a disappointment. Two luke-warm pancakes, two rubbery, overcooked, sausage patties, a small cup of canned OJ, and a styro of 3 hour old coffee.

Showers greeted the am visitors to the swap, but the swapping activity seemed a bit better this year than in the recent past. I estimate there were eight or ten occupied swapper stalls. As the day progressed, Don, Ed, and myself, all completed many satisfactory trades. Our box full of "junior" trading material also experienced a high turnover. (Here, junior rockounds make there own trades .... Take one out, put one back. As one might expect, at the end of the day, we are left with 10 pounds of "road metal" grade specimens, but a lot of happy kids !).



Gray skies greet early visitors to the NMS swappers booth. Note adjacent Keene club booth.



Trade specimens cover tables under the MMS tarp.

During the afternoon, a show visitor, perhaps seeing our banner indicating we were a local club, stopped to inquire if we could assist in identifying a specimen he had. Always eager to see another's find, I responded that I would be happy to take a look. Extracting the tissue wrapped object from an oblong box, the man produced a six pound, hollow, gray, cylindrical specimen with a green glass-lined center. He explained that he had found it this spring while hiking on Mt. Monadnock. He believed it was a fulgurite, that is, a fused rock mass formed from a lightning strike. After looking it over, I

concluded. It was an outstanding example. At it was from New Hampshire ! A very interesting find!



Fulgurite from Mt. Monadnock. Found spring 2004. Quarter shown for size



Junior swappers complete a “trade” at our NMS booth.



Skies cleared in the afternoon.