

## **Gilsum 2005**

Tom Mortimer

On arriving at the Gilsum ballfield at 9:10 am, I was greeted by Ed Anderson. Ed had already set up his sturdy awning on our NMS swap site. Members Don Swenson and Bob York arrived shortly thereafter to assist in erecting the blue club tarp behind Ed's canapé. The shade of these combined overheads was a welcomed refuge as the temperatures rose with the sun on the first rainless Gilsum event in many years. Several card tables were quickly unfolded and filled with swapping material from members Ed, Don, Carlos Gristani, and Tom Mortimer. Ed Anderson had put together about 100 multi-specimen grab bags for handout to junior collectors. News of this give-away must have spread quickly down the length of the ballfield. Several dozen of the bags quickly disappeared to delighted youngsters. Thanks for putting this together Ed! Tom hoisted the NMS club banner on a telescoping pole lashed to the front of Ed's awning. The Keene Mineral Club banner was visible at a nearby swapper's site.

In addition to members noted above, also seen at the NMS booth were Marlene York, Mike Undercofler, Marion Hochuli, Bill Ellis, and Ernie Schlichter. Many former NMS members were also greeted on the ballfield, including Lou and Julie Wanet, Dick Dion, Howard and Bea Ewing, Bill and Alice Phipps; (my apologies if I missed anyone).

The dealers portion of the Gilsum event continues to be a vibrant economic enterprise. I counted 60 dealers of minerals and lapidary items. Eight swappers were in attendance, a few more than last year. (I completed several satisfactory swaps.)

From my viewpoint, the bargain of the day was discovered by Bob York, who purchased a 2½ inch, golden yellow, Marlboro, MA, (Rt. 495-290), calcite. This perky box protected specimen, (likely collected in the early 80's from this long closed site), is the best I have seen from this locale. Price? \$5.00! Bob also scooped up a miniature specimen of acicular, clear, gypsum crystals on matrix from this same locale for the same bargain price of \$5.00. A collection of a deceased collector was apparently being liquidated. I acquired a one inch St. Hilaire, (Quebec), analcime crystal in perky box also for \$5.00, (comparable to a \$50.00 St. Hilaire analcime seen on John Betts web page earlier in June.)

Gilsum is by far the best show to "rub shoulders" with other active New England field collectors.

Conversations with other collectors brought to light two new, (to me), sites which I hope to visit before year's end, (and report on in the newsletter). Perhaps other members got wind of new sites as well?

No trip to the Gilsum swap is complete without a seating at the Youth Recreation's ham and bean supper.

Thick slices of ham, (somewhat rubbery this year – I'm also a food critic!), accompanied baked beans, potato salad, cole slaw, and rolls. The pies were plentiful, their variety extensive, and the diners obviously stuffed, as several slices remained in the pie plates as NMS members contributed to the tip cup and arose from the table.

Connecticut collector Jeff Fast presented an after dinner talk in the school gym on some of his recent international mineral acquisition trips.



Gilsum 2005 – dealers setting up Sat am



NMS swappers booth



Carlos contemplates a trade



Specimens for trade at NMS booth



Gilsum Ballfield



NMS site