

# Gilsum Rock Swap – Past and Present

Tom Mortimer

This June the Gilsum Rock Swap celebrated its 57<sup>th</sup> year. What began as a pure mineral swapping event has morphed into a mineral and jewelry dealer sale. The last vestiges of collectors swapping specimens disappeared at the start of the new millennium. I have several dozen specimens in my collection that I acquired from those swapping years. It was a great opportunity to talk with New England field collectors and learn details of localities and the specimens available.

At the September 2023 MMNE meeting, Hal Herard loaned me several photos of the Gilsum Swap from the late 1970's. (best guess from the vehicles on the ball field) I scanned two, included below.

This year I opted to acquire my own dealer space, after years of piggy-backing at the rear of Bob & Marlene York's "Prospectors Pick" booth. I have to substantially downsize decades of duplicate field collected specimens. My sale specimens were priced cheap, the majority in the \$3 to \$5 range. Most were from New England localities. (Dealer specimens from New England localities are increasingly uncommon at the Gilsum "Swap".) I was pleased that the "swap" attendees liked my offerings. I sold about two-thirds of what I brought.

I saw several MMNE members during the two day event. Those present on Saturday will recall that it poured! Rain is not uncommon during Gilsum weekends, but that Saturday was exceptional. Sunday was blue-sky perfect. Two photos from this year's "swap" are included.



Gilsum Rock Swap – Late 1970's  
Hal Herard photo from scan



Gilsum Rock Swap – Late 1970's  
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Gilsum Rock Swap 2023 - Sunny Sunday



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