



# The Helena Mineral Society Newsletter



Gem, Mineral, and Geological Education and Experience

November 2008

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## From The Editor:

**Greetings. This will be the final newsletter for 2008, none next month because of the Christmas party. I hope everyone had a bountiful collection season.**

**This month, I want to talk about the very important practice of labeling specimens.**

**(Thanks, Dr. Dave, for bringing this up)**

**It is very important to label specimens with date collected, location and name of specimen. You may think that in 25 years the information will still be clear in your memory, but unfortunately, memory wanes away. Also if something should happen to you, no one knows what that “box of rocks” is, and 99 times out of 100 it will end up in the trash!**

**An easy way to label is to use a small dab of white out in an inconspicuous place on the specimen. On the white spot, use a fine point marker and number the specimen, eg., fl-1, or fluorite #1. In a journal or note book, write down specimen number, name, date and location collected and price paid, if the specimen was purchased. Put record in safe place that is accessible by family. Now, that was easy.**

**Helena Mineral Society  
Officers for 2008-2009**

**President: Andrew Horton**  
227-6215 [andrew@mt.net](mailto:andrew@mt.net)

**Vice-president: Kathy Bruce**  
443-1175

**Secretary: James Bruce**  
443-1175 [JBruce4@aol.com](mailto:JBruce4@aol.com)

**Treasurer: Sherry Reynolds**  
933-8798

**Member-at-Large: Norm Smith**  
475-3127

**Historian: Phyllis Smith**

**Field Trip Chairman: Martin  
Landry 442-1457**  
[mldry121@yahoo.com](mailto:mldry121@yahoo.com)

**Show Chairman: Gary Parisi**  
442-1226

**Program Chairman: John  
Richardson**  
422-0978

**Newsletter Editor: Gary Parisi**

**2008 HMS Christmas Party**

The HMS's annual Christmas party will be held Dec. 13, 2008 at the Hannaford Street Church, 830 N Hannaford St. Doors open at 4:00 pm for set up of tables, chairs and live and silent auction items. There will also be a table set up for silent auction for children 12 and under only.

This is a pot luck dinner. HMS provides ham, turkey, dressing, plates, utensils and napkins. Please bring your favorite dish to share with others, whether it be a salad, vegetable dish, fruits or a dessert. Dinner will begin at 6:00, but come early to place bids on silent auction items and view live auction items.

**Wire wrapping classes:**

Phyllis Smith has a wire wrapping class scheduled for Jan. 24, 2009. It will be held at 2221 Choteau, Bidmead's house, from 1 to 4 pm. Please go to back door. Call Phyllis to sign up or for more information at 475-3127.

Ann Jancic has a mineral collection for sale. She want to sell it complete. If you are interested call her at 458-9387.

Please read the minutes this month. There are two by-law changes that will be voted on at the January meeting. If you need more information on these, contact Andy or Jim.

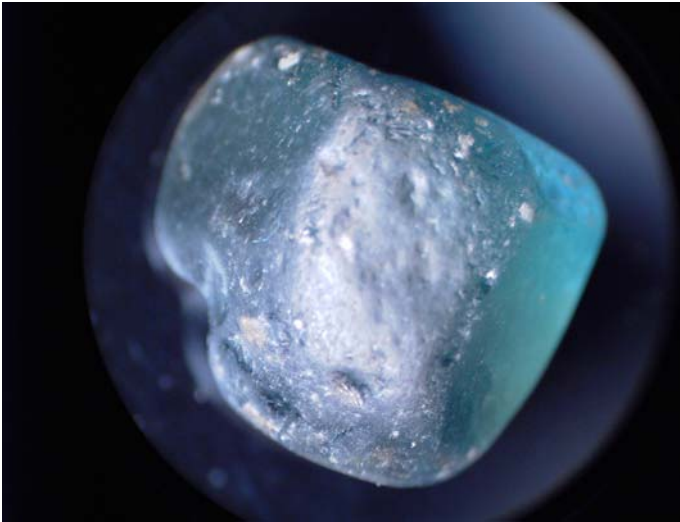
Phil Walsh will be having a Mineral Identification class again in 2009. The tentative start date is Feb. 10, 2009 at Helena High School. The application will be in the Helena IR, Sunday edition, sometime around the middle of January. If you are new to collecting, or need a refresher, this class is for you.

HMS is going "Green". Starting in January, if you would rather view the newsletter on the website, [helenamineralsociety.org](http://helenamineralsociety.org), let Andy or Jim know. Those wishing to receive it by regular mail will not be affected. The newsletter has been on line for the last several months. More photos will also be on the website.

Our own Gene Hodge and several partners are mining sapphires from the tailing piles at El Dorado Bar. At present, they are just running material that was previously dredged for gold. Sapphires and garnets, both gem quality and specimen grade, are for sale. Contact Gene at 442-9704.



Chuck Borland going through sapphires.  
Wash plant and jig in background.



21 carat blue sapphire



Many carats!

Next regular meeting for the Helena Mineral Society is Jan. 9, 2009.

## Meetings

The Helena Mineral Society meets at the Mountain West Bank located on Montana Avenue between Aspen and Poplar. Meetings are the second Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm. There is no regular meeting for the month of December. See you there! Friends, guests, and new members are always welcome

To place a classified ad, please see me in person at one of our regular meetings or you may e-mail me (Gary) with your information at [gjparisi72@yahoo.com](mailto:gjparisi72@yahoo.com). Ad will run in the newsletter for that month only unless specifically requested to run longer.

### Pictures and Articles Needed:

If you have a picture that you want to share, please send it to me, along with a short description of the activity, where it took place, and when, and I'll put it in the newsletter. If you'd like to share your field trip adventures with those members who are unable to attend, please feel free to contribute to the newsletter. Just e-mail me your experiences, and I'll make sure they're entered. Remember, this is your newsletter, and your contributions make it better.

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Helena Mineral Society, Inc.  
PO Box 736  
Helena, Montana 59624

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## Education and Experience