



The Helena Mineral Society Newsletter



Gem, Mineral, and Geological Education and Experience

February 2009

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From The Editor:

It's starting to get warmer and the days are getting longer. If you are like me, I'm starting to get itchy about getting out and searching for rock and mineral treasures.

Now would be an excellent time to check all your collecting paraphernalia to make sure you are ready for upcoming field trips and such.

Check chisels and sharpen if necessary.

Know where your rock hammer is. I have several kits that have location specific tools and items in them. For example, tweezers, film or pill vials, screens and small hand digging implements for sapphire and garnet digging.

A canvas bag, buckets of various sizes, compartment boxes and newspaper or paper towels to wrap specimens are a must on any expedition.

Other items to have are: shovels, picks, 10X hand lens, plenty of drinking water, insect repellent, sun screen, a wide brimmed hat and a small first aid kit. Good hiking shoes help and a long sleeved shirt protects arms from thorns and flying rock shards if you are cracking rocks. And don't forget to use safety glasses! See you in the field!

**Helena Mineral Society
Officers for 2007-2008**

President: Andrew Horton
227-6215 andrew@mt.net

Vice-president: Kathy Bruce
443-1175

Secretary: Justine Jam

Treasurer: Sherry Reynolds
933-8798

Membership Chairman
James Bruce
443-1175 JBruce4@aol.com

Member-at-Large: Norm Smith
475-3127

Historian: Phyllis Smith

**Field Trip Chairman: Martin
Landry**
mlandry121@yahoo.com

Show Chairman: Gary Parisi
442-1226

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

Newsletter Editor: Gary Parisi

Wire wrapping classes:

February 21, 2009- Beginner's class

March 7, 2009- Intermediate class

March 21, 2009- Advanced class

Contact Phyllis Smith for more information.
475-3127

Grab bag filling for the Mineral Show will take place Saturday, March 28 at Wayne Waters house, 5485 Sahara Court. Start time will be at 9:00 AM. Bring any items that would fill grab bags.

HMS will be participating in a History Fair. Tentative date is May 30, 2009 on the walking mall downtown. Period dress required. For info call Wayne Waters @ 458-4919.

A tentative field trip to Montana Tunnels Gold Mine to view the milling process is scheduled for April 11, 2009. Meet at the SE corner of Dillard's parking lot at 9:00 AM.

The Northwest and Rocky Mountain Federations of Mineral Societies will be holding a combined show in Billings, MT July 30 through Aug. 2. It will be held at the Holiday Inn Trade Center. This will be an excellent show to attend. There will be dealers that only come to Montana for this show. They may never return to do another show. Also, eight field trips are planned.

Phil Walsh's Mineral Identification class has started. There is still room and you have missed only one class. Just show up to enroll. Helena High School Room 59. Tuesdays 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Cost is \$60.00.

Wayne Waters was approved for a Life Membership to HMS in January for his years of outstanding service and dedication to the Club. Congratulations!

If anyone has videos, DVD's or books that have been checked out and not returned to the Club's Library, please contact Kathy Bruce.

Congratulations to new member Justine Jam. She volunteered and was unanimously approved to fill the Club Secretary position.

The 2009 HMS Mineral Show is fast approaching. We have 21 dealers at present. Set up will be Friday Apr. 17, 1:00PM at the Civic Center. Pot luck to follow at 5:30. HMS will provide chicken, plates, utensils and napkins. Please bring a side dish to share.

Persons working the show are asked to park in the parking garage or at least 1 block away from the Civic Center. This gives the public easier access.

Sign up sheets for the show are at the meetings. Fliers and passes will be at the March meeting.



Hey, there are rocks here!



Yup, it's a rock.

Above two photos from HMS field trip to Whiskey Gulch near Butte last summer

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. 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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