



The Helena Mineral Society Newsletter



Gem, Mineral, and Geological Education and Experience

June 2009

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From The Editor:

Quartz, or Silicon Dioxide (SiO₂), one of three most common minerals along with calcite and feldspars.

Quartz is divided into two groups, crystalline and cryptocrystalline or colloform. Crystalline quartz includes all varieties occurring in large crystals. These include rock crystal, smokey quartz, amethyst, citrine, rose and blue quartz and

quartz with inclusions (rutile, tourmalinated, aventurine and tiger eye- replacement of asbestos). Other inclusions include kaolin, chlorite, goethite and hematite.

Cryptocrystalline quartz includes chalcedony, chrysoprase, onyx, agate, moss agate, jasper, chert and opal. Opal can contain up to 20% water.

There are two other forms of quartz, Tridymite and Cristobalite. Both are formed in a high temperature environment in cavities in volcanic rocks and both usually form crystals 1/16" or less.

Quartz is widespread in the Helena area in both crystalline and cryptocrystalline forms. Crystals to 6" can be found and abundant agate opal, chalcedony, jasper, chert and opal, also.

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

President: Andrew Horton
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Upcoming field trips:

June 20 -Sauerbier garnet dig: depart Dillard's parking lot 7:00 am. Bring shovel, buckets, screens(1/8" and 1/2"), lunch, water and sunscreen.

June 27 -Sally Ann crystal dig and picnic:Bring pot luck dish- salad, chips, dessert etc. Depart Lundy Center 8:00 am Shovels, bag or bucket screen and insect spray. About 3/4 mile hike each way.

July 11 -Julia Mine, Depart Lundy Center 8:30 am. Bring hammer, bag or bucket, hand lens lunch, water and insect spray. You will find pyrite and sphalerite. About 3/4 mile hike each way.

July 18 -Whitehouse Campground for Bartie. Depart Dillard's parking lot 8:30 am. Bring hammer, screw driver(for prying) bag or bucket, lunch, water sunscreen and insect spray.

Aug. 8 -Whitetail Basin for schorl, titanite and feldspar. Depart Dillard's 8:30 am. Bring hammer, bag or bucket, hand lens, water lunch, sunscreen and insect spray.

More next month or check schedule on the web site, www.helenamineralsociety.org.

A necessity for collecting is something to protect the specimens you have collected. A compartmented box work well to protect small specimens. Simply wrap each piece in newspaper, paper towel or toilet paper and put each in it's own compartment. They are protected and don't bang against each other.

The 2009 Helena Mineral Society's annual Christmas Party will be held on December 12. More information to come later.

The Helena Mineral Society has made a \$2000.00 donation to Montana Tech Mineral Museum. \$1000.00 to the general operating fund and \$1000.00 towards the Museum's purchase of the Rheanna Star smokey quartz cluster. If you have not seen this cluster in person, you should take a trip to the Museum and see it. It weighs about 130 pounds and just fits into a standard display case, 2' X 2' X 4'.



HMS President Andrew Horton making HMS donation to Dr. Pete Knudson and Dr. Richard Berg, June 13, 2009



Visitors viewing Rheanna' Star
Above photos courtesy Martin Landry



Rheanna's Star and misc. quartz and schorl crystals, Sept. 2008
Next regular meeting July 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

"For Sale, includes everything you need to begin faceting. Used Prismatic faceting machine, six laps and case, light over machine, 27 dop sticks with holder, bunsen burner, transfer block, forty five degree dop for table, faceting book, and variety of rough stones. \$900.00 for everything. Call Bill Frederick, 227-5004"

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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