



The Helena Mineral Society Newsletter



Gem, Mineral, and Geological Education and Experience

July 2010

From The Editor:

In This Issue:

Page 1:

From the Editor

Page 2

Coming Events

Page 3:

HMS By-laws: Duties of
members

Page 4:

Classifieds

Calcite, one of the three most common minerals along with quartz and feldspars.

The name calcite comes from the Latin *calx*, *calcis*, “lime” and originally from the Greek *chalx* “burnt lime”.

Composition is calcium carbonate and colorless or pale varieties are quite pure.

Crystals are hexagonal and two major types occur, scalenohedral-prismatic and rhombohedral. Less common are tabular or disc-like crystals.

Calcite is brittle and easily cleaved on the “r” axis, fracture is conchoidal. Hardness is 2.75 to 3.25.

Weight is 2.71, varying according to composition.

Calcite is transparent to translucent. It is usually colorless or pale or to a distinct yellow. Other colors include pink, brown, violet, blue and greenish. It can be strongly colored by inclusions.

Calcite can be distinguished easily because it bubbles profusely in hydrochloric acid. Also it bubbles with common vinegar.

Calcite is very common in all rocks with the exception of granitic types and pegmatites.

Collecting sites around Helena are many: Scratchgravel Hills has fine blue calcite, near Lombard on the Missouri River fine dog-tooth crystals occur, Calvert Hill has yellow-tan to brown with some containing epidote or aquamarine.

**Helena Mineral Society
Officers for 2009-2010**

President: Andrew Horton
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Vice-president: Kathy Bruce
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Upcoming field trips

July 24- Calvert Hill: meet at Wise River, MT at 9:00 AM. Find garnets, epidote, calcite, quartz, scheelite and aquamarine. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen, insect repellent, hammer, safety glasses and bag or bucket for collecting.

July 31- Mount Belmont: Depart Ben Franklin parking lot at 9:00 AM. Find clear, white and amethyst quartz crystals. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen, insect repellent, hammer, shovel and collecting bag or bucket.

August 7- Snowbird Mine. Depart Missoula Costco parking lot at 8:00 AM. Find fluorite, quartz and parisite. This is a long trip. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen, hammer, safety glasses, and bag or bucket.

On the Mt. Belmont and Snowbird field trips, please check website for confirmation of trips.

The above trips are an excellent opportunity to collect material for grab bags, ball toss and silent auction.

2 volunteers are needed for the nominating committee of club officers for the next year. Contact Andy if interested.

The 2010 HMS Christmas Party will be held December 4, 2010, watch for further details.

Next regular meeting is August 12, 2010

It has been brought to the attention of the Helena Mineral Society that some members have been excessively digging at the Sally Ann quartz claim. Following are the member duties in the By-Laws of HMS.

By-Laws of the
HELENA MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

SECTION 9. Duties of Members

(a) It shall be the duty of each member to endeavor to attend each meeting of the Helena Mineral Society, Inc., to abide by the majority vote of the members and the decisions of the Chair, and to bear in mind at all times the purpose of the Helena Mineral Society, Inc. As expressed in Article III of the Articles of Incorporation.

(b) A member shall respect the privacy of private property and will not enter on such property to collect specimens without the permission of the owner.

(c) A member shall observe all rules and regulations applying to federal and state lands when entering thereon to collect specimens.

(d) A member shall not present himself or herself as acting for the Helena Mineral Society, Inc. unless so authorized.

(e) A member or guest shall not “undercut” or “tunnel” in excess of one foot from the vertical face while attempting to recover any mineral or specimen on any Helena Mineral Society, Inc. claim or property.

(f) A member may not dig on any of the Helena Mineral Society, Inc. claims more than three (3) consecutive days, nor more than a total of ten (10) days on any one claim during the calendar year. A day is herein defined as the time beginning at sunrise and ending at sunset, or any portion thereof. There will be no prospecting between the hours of sunset to sunrise and / or the use of any artificial light. All motor driven equipment is strictly prohibited on any and all of the Helena Mineral Society, Inc. claims.

(g) A member family may be accompanied by no more than one (1) non-member guest family while digging on the Helena Mineral Society, Inc. claims. The Helena Mineral Society, Inc. claims presently consist of: the Miss Beverly sapphire claim, the Miss Beverly #2 sapphire claim, the Blue Star sapphire claim, and the Crystal claim on Sally Ann creek.

A guest family shall be defined to include a husband and wife and their immediate offspring. Exceptions to this paragraph shall be by the approval of the Board of Directors.

(h) A member on any H.M.S. claim shall have on his/her person a current membership card and shall display the same to any other member upon request.

Violation of these Duties and/or Rules shall be reviewed by the Board of Directors and will be cause for the withdrawal of membership of the violating member by the Helena Mineral Society.

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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