



The Helena Mineral Society Newsletter



Gem, Mineral, and Geological Education and Experience

November 2010

In This Issue:

Page 1:

From the Editor

Page 2

Coming Events

Christmas Party

Page 3:

Tidbits

Page 4:

Classifieds

From The Editor:

Cinnabar is this month's mineral.

The name is of uncertain original meaning and is from the Latin, *cinnabaris*.

Hexagonal crystals are rare.

Rhombohedral to thick tabular crystals are more common. These crystals are seldom over 1\8” . Cinnabar usually occurs in druses or drusy coatings on other minerals. Faces can be sharp but are

commonly tarnished to an almost silvery luster.

Cinnabar is brittle and fracture is conchoidal. It is transparent to translucent. Hardness is 2 to 2 1\2 and weight is 8.1. Chemical formula is mercuric sulfide. Color is intense red and can verge to slightly reddish-brown.

Cinnabar occurs in low temperature deposits usually near hot springs and recent volcanoes. It is associated with pyrite, stibnite, marcasite, opal, quartz and calcite.

Fine crystals to 3\4” in calcite have occurred in Nevada and drusy crystals to 1\2” have been found in Mexico. The finest crystals, (1\2” to 1”), are found in China on drusy quartz.

A nice cinnabar specimen would make a fine addition to any collection.

**Helena Mineral Society
Officers for 2010-2011**

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

Vice-president: Kathy Bruce
443-1175

Treasurer: James Bruce
443-1175 JBruce4@aol.com

Secretary: Open

Member-at-Large: Norm Smith
475-3127

Historian: Phyllis Smith

**Field Trip Chairman: Martin
Landry**
mldry121@yahoo.com

Show Chairman: Gary Parisi
442-1226

Program Chairman: David Jordan
443-0348

Newsletter Editor: Gary Parisi
gjparisi72@yahoo.com

The 2010 HMS Christmas Party will be held Saturday December 4 at the Hannaford Street Church, 830 North Hannaford.

Set up will begin at 4:00 PM. Dinner will start at 6:00 PM. Come early and help set up tables, chairs and silent auction items.

Please bring a hot casserole dish, salad or dessert to share with everyone.

HMS will provide ham, cheese tray, gravy, bread and butter, drinks and napkins and utensils.

Those buying and cooking the turkeys will be reimbursed if they so desire.

Entertainment will be provided by "Mood Swing".

During the live auction, members will have the option to pay for the item at the time of purchase.

If you would like to become a club officer and do not want to jump in cold turkey, a mentoring program is being discussed.

If members have something mineral oriented and would like to set up a display case in next year's show, contact Martin, Gary, Gene, Dr. Dave or Andy to get some guide lines and pointers on how to set up your case.

With the colder weather upon us, it is time to clean, mount and label the specimens that were collected this year. Slabbing, cabbing, polishing and mounting cutting material is a good cooler weather project.

Now is the time to consider where you would like to go for field trips next year. Contact Martin with suggestions.

Next regular meeting is January 13, 2011.

There will be no meeting in the month of December. The HMS Christmas party is in it's place. Come to the party and enjoy good food and bid on that special item. If you have something to donate, Gary is accepting those items.

Have a safe and happy Holiday Season!



Sauerbaer garnet dig 2010, courtesy Martin Landry



Miss Beverly sapphire dig 2010, courtesy Jan Smith

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.

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

Gem, Mineral, and Geological



Education and Experience