



The Helena Mineral Society Newsletter



Gem, Mineral, and Geological Education and Experience

February 2012

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Breuninger

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Classifieds

From The Editor:

Bornite is the mineral of the month. It's named after Austrian mineralogist Ignatius von Born.

Crystals are isometric and very rare; predominately massive in form. Bornite is brittle, has a conchoidal fracture and indistinct cleavage.

Bornite is opaque. Fresh fractures are coppery or bronzy but quickly tarnish to intense purplish hues where it gets its common name, "peacock ore." Bornite is a copper iron sulfide.

Bornite's hardness is 3 and its weight is 4.9 to 5.4.

Bornite occurs in massive inter-growths with other sulfide minerals in hydrothermal veins. It can also occur in small nodules in basalt cavities associated with prehnite and zeolites. Bornite is also found in copper ore veins both as a primary or secondary mineral.

Bornite is a fairly common mineral but, crystals in small druses are only known from a few localities- such as Bristol, Connecticut, Cornwall, England and of course Butte, Montana.

Many mineral dealers will have specimens of this mineral for sale. You can purchase a small to medium sized specimen at a very reasonable price.

When purchasing a specimen of bornite, ask a few questions. Chalcopyrite can be treated to simulate the iridescence of bornite.

Bornite is colorful mineral that will make a fine addition to any collection.

**Helena Mineral Society
Officers for 2011-2012**

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Secretary: Maryam Garcia

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Show Chairman: Gary Parisi
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Program Chairman: David Jordan
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Kathy Bruce has grab bags cut out and ready to sew. If you can sew a few, call her at 443-1175 to make arrangements.

A field trip to Yogo Creek is in the works. Tentative date is May 19, 2012. Collecting of calcite and pyrite pseudomorphs. If time allows, a possible side trip to collect fossils. More info later. This is about a 2 1/2 hour drive each way.

David Jordan has surplus black dop wax. If you need some, contact him at 443-0348.

At the writing of this newsletter, HMS has 21 confirmed dealers for the show in April. I am trying to get at least two more.

A grab bag filling date will be set at the next meeting. It will be in the latter part of March on a Saturday.

If you have ideas for field trips, contact Martin at 431-8081.

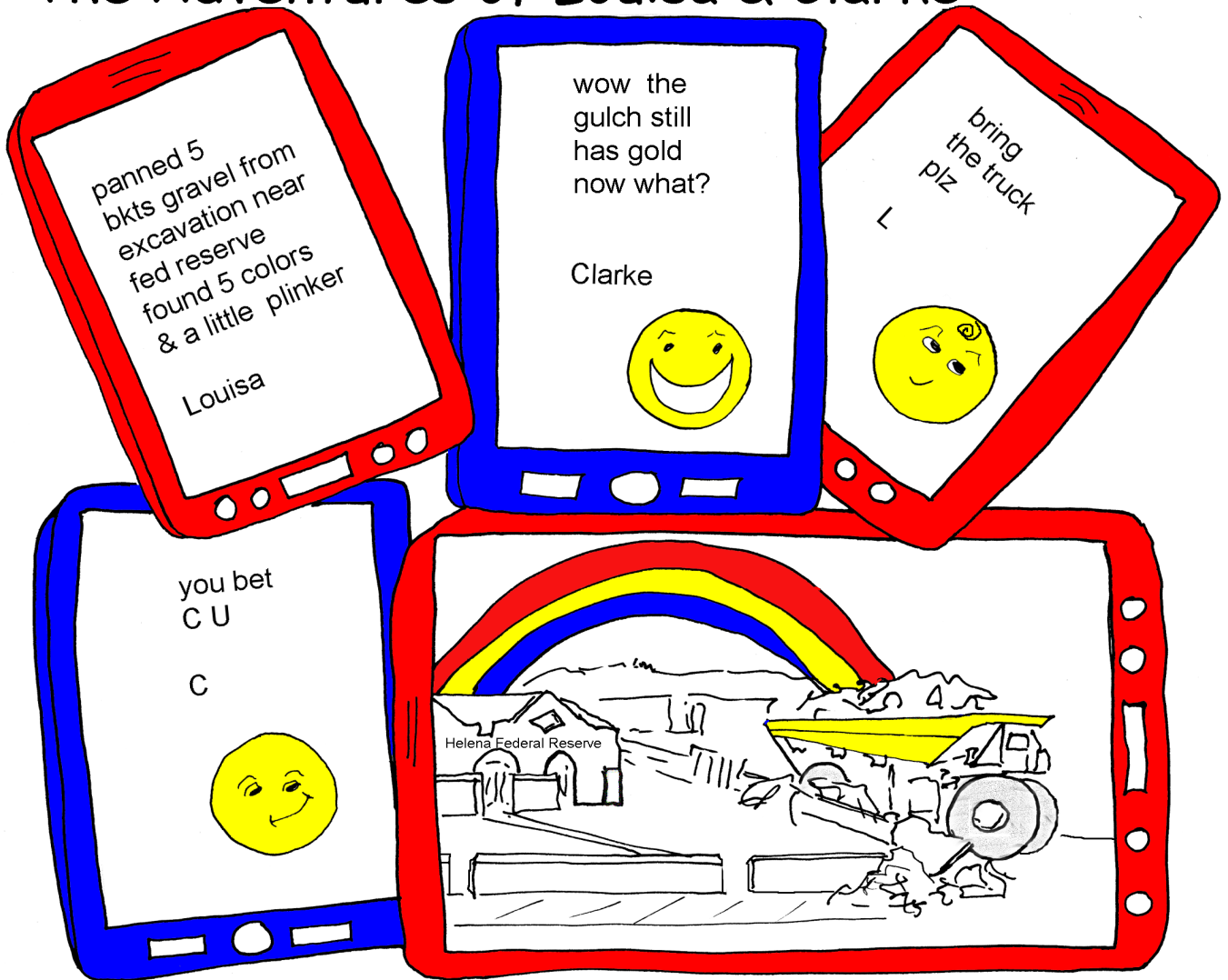
HMS yearly dues are due in April.

HMS members that are working the show are please asked to park in the parking garage east of the Civic Center or at least a block away. This makes it more convenient for the public to access the show.

If you have grab bag material and need it picked up, please call Gary @ 442-1226 to make arrangements.

Next regular meeting is March 8,2012

The Adventures of Louisa & Clarke



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Thank you again to Nan for providing this cartoon for the newsletter. If you have articles, pictures, a story or anything that is mineral related, please submit to the newsletter editor for publication in “your” newsletter.

For sale: Travertine coffee table, \$75.00 or best offer. Call Gary Stout at 442-8978.

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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