



The Helena Mineral Society Newsletter



Gem, Mineral, and Geological Education and Experience

January 2012

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From The Editor:

The New Year is upon us and I hope everyone had a joyous Holiday Season. The annual HMS Mineral Show will be here before we know it. Now is the time to sort out the “treasures” that were found last year and get them ready for grab bags, ball toss and silent auction.

This month's mineral is Galena. It derives its name from the Greek *galene*, or “lead ore”.

Crystals are isometric and predominately cubes or cubes with octahedral modifications, rarely octahedral. Repeatedly twinned crystals can form nearly spherical and cubes are commonly studded with over-growths of galena octohedrons and over-growths of marcasite and

chalcopyrite.

Galena is brittle with a stepped fracture and has a perfect fracture parallel to the faces. Hardness is 2.5 and weight is 7.58. Chemistry is lead sulphate. It is opaque, usually with a blue-gray color when fresh. Pale to dark-gray because of surface oxidation.

Galena is associated with many minerals including sphalerite, iron pyrite, quartz, calcite and fluorite to name a few. It is present in almost all hydrothermal sulfide ore bodies.

Galena is a very common mineral in the Helena and surrounding areas. Galena can be found on the mine dumps at the Summit and Black Friday Mines near Radersburg, the Julia Mine up Telegraph Creek, near Hub Camp on Telegraph Creek and the mine dumps around Marysville.

Cubes with faces to 6” across are rare and most run in the range of 1½” to 2”. Octahedral galena is seldom over ¾”.

Specimens of this mineral are reasonably priced and will make a good addition to any collection.

**Helena Mineral Society
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A change has been made to the HMS by-laws. Motorized vehicles and equipment may now be used for weed control and reclamation.

Grab bags are still needed for the upcoming show. We need at least 1,000 more. If you can help, call Kathy at 443-1175 for info.

The theme for the 2012 show is Garnet. If you are putting in a display case, please include a garnet specimen.

The show dates for 2015 have been secured. The dates are April 10, 11 and 12, 2015.

***** A few reminders*****

Please turn off cell phones during HMS meetings.

Those tumbling material for grab bags will be reimbursed 30 cent per pound for polished material. Please be honest.

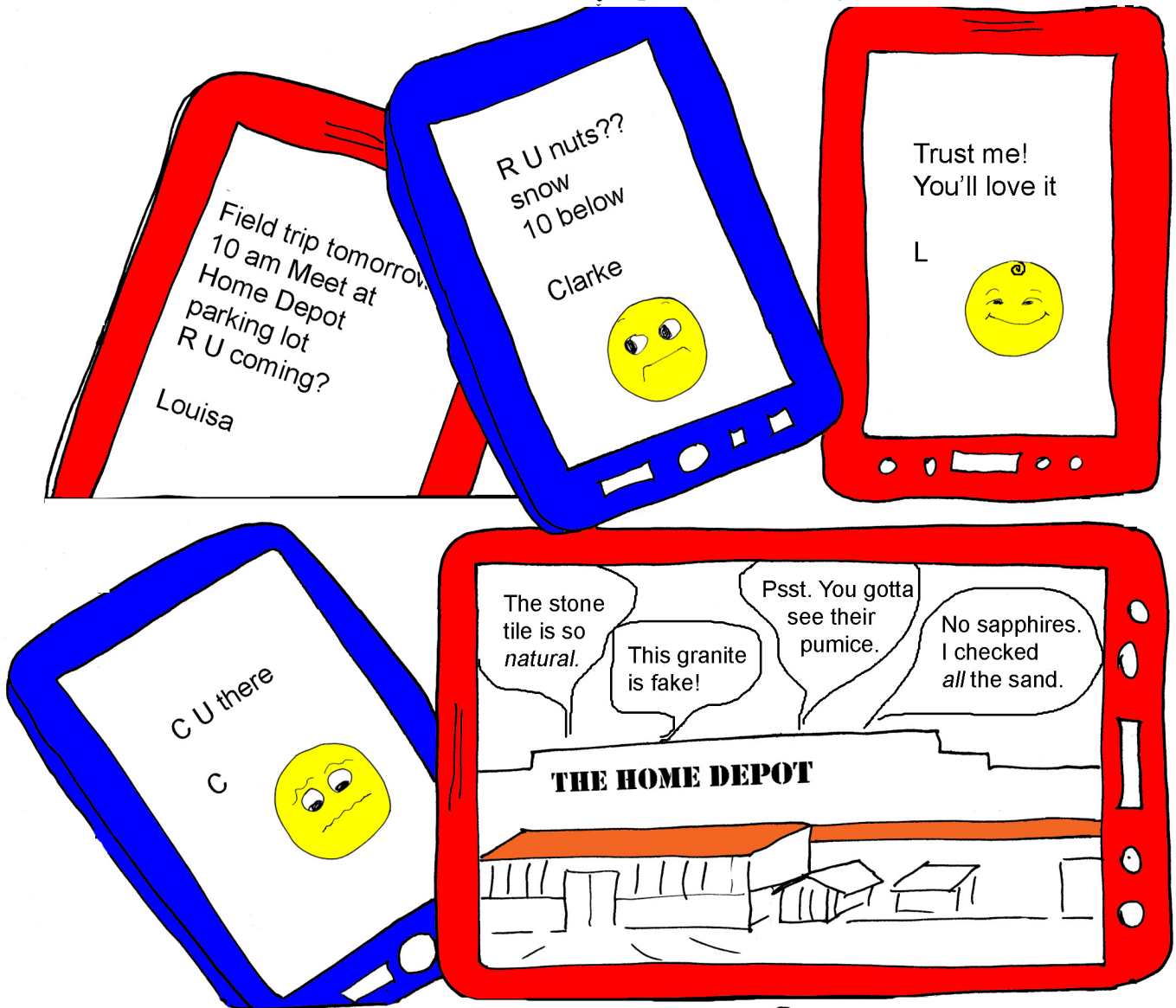
Gary has grit and polish. Contact him at 442-1226 if you need either.

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

Now is the time to be considering where you would like to go on field trips this year. Contact Martin at 431-8081 with your suggestions.

Next regular meeting is February 9, 2012

The Adventures of Louisa & Clarke



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Thanks to Nan for supplying this comic for the newsletter. If you have any pictures, articles, funny stories or whatever that is rock or mineral related, submit to the editor for publication in the newsletter.

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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