



The Helena Mineral Society Newsletter



Gem, Mineral, and Geological Education and Experience

May 2017

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From The Editor:

Calcite: one of the four most common minerals on this planet.

This mineral is one of the most exciting. It can form in over six hundred crystal shapes and can be any color from water clear to black, depending on trace mineral inclusions.

Chemical composition is calcium carbonate and hardness is three on the Mohs scale. Weight is 2.69 to 2.71.

Calcite, it is thought, was used by the Vikings as a way to navigate on the ocean because of its light polarization abilities. This is a water clear calcite called Iceland Spar. The mineral was originally brought from Iceland, hence the name for clear calcite, Iceland Spar.

Calcite is very abundant in Montana. It can be found throughout the state.

Around Helena, blue calcite can be found in the Scratch Gravel Hills, on Mount Helena and many more places I don't have room to mention.

Calcite is a good starter mineral to a collection because of the variety of crystal forms.

This is all leading up to a field trip on June 3rd to a calcite deposit just east of Big Timber, Mt. See page two for details.

**Helena Mineral Society
Officers for 2016-2017**

**President: Martin Landry 431-8081
mlandry121@yahoo.com**

**Vice-president: Sally Caputo
458-5862**

Secretary: Open

Membership Chairman: Open

Treasurer: Jan Smith

**Member-at-Large: Gene Hodge
442-9704**

Historian: Carolyn De Martino

**Field Trip Chairman:
Open**

**Show Chairman: Dan Caputo
458-5862**

Program Chairman: Open

**Newsletter Editor: Gary Parisi
gjparisi72@yahoo.com**

www.helenamineralsociety.org

Field Trips:

A joint field trip with the Bozeman Club is scheduled on June 3rd. Meet at west exit to Big Timber, MT at Town Pump by 10:30. This may be the last time any club will have access to the Polaroid Calcite mine. This is about a 2 1/2 hour drive from Helena to the meeting point. See you there.

The club garnet dig is slated for either June 17 or June 24.

The Butte Mineral Show will be held June 10th and 11th at the Butte Civic Center Annex. Please support our sister clubs.

The Bozeman Mineral Club has also invited any HMS members to their quartz crystal claim in Hell's Canyon between Whitehall and Twin Bridges. The date is July 29th. A high clearance or four wheel drive vehicle is advised. You can camp overnight and make it a two day trip. More info as I receive it.

ATTENTION SEWERS: Fabric and pattern for grab bags are available from Natalie Jordan. Contact her at 461-7096 or leave message.

On a sad note: A long time member, Randy Reynolds passed away. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sherry, his wife.

A backhoe will be rented for a week to maintenance at Miss Beverly Sapphire Claim. Contact Martin or Wayne for details.

The annual club picnic will be held instead of the July meeting at 7:00 PM on July 20th. Location is the courtyard of the Neighborhood Center, between Neighborhood Center and Library. Bring your favorite side dish to share. HMS will supply chicken, plates, utensils and drinks.

There was a purple wind breaker left at Sally Ann during the work weekend. Call Martin.

Volunteers needed to help plan field trips, programs and mineral show. We are losing our show chairperson and vice-president in July. HELP!



Photo credit: Julia Evans- Sally Ann clean up day. Thanks to all that helped!

*******HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO NORM SMITH!!!!*******

Next regular meeting, June 15th, 2017

Meetings

The Helena Mineral Society meets at the Neighborhood Center, 200 S. Cruse Ave the third Thursday of each 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

