



# The Helena Mineral Society Newsletter



**Gem, Mineral, Geological Education and Experience**

**May 2016**

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## Upcoming Events

### June 4

White Earth Field Trip

### June 16

Club Meeting 7:00 pm

### June 18

Annual Ruby Reservoir Garnet Trip, meet at Dillard's parking lot, 8 am

### July 2

Sally Ann Field Trip, meet at Ben Franklin parking lot 9 am

### July 16

Miss Beverly clean up day, meet at Dillard's parking lot, 9 am

## *A Word from the President:*

A Big Thank-You to the many club members that participated in clean up at the Sally Ann claim!

A quick reminder of club rules concerning collecting. These rules and others can be found at our web site:

<http://www.helenamineralsociety.org/membership/index.html>

*(b) A member will 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 will observe all rules and regulations applying to Federal and State lands when entering thereon to collect specimens.*

*(d) A member will 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 consecutive days, nor more than a total of ten 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 Helena Mineral Society, Inc., claims with the exception being for remediation and maintenance only.*

*(g) A member family may be accompanied by no more than one non-member guest family while digging on the Helena Mineral Society, Inc., claims. A guest family shall be defined to include a husband and wife and their immediate offspring.*

*(h) No gem or mineral found on any Helena Mineral Society claim may be sold in any commercial manner.*

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Remember you share the land with others so don't leave a mess or disturbances that could represent a danger to other people, livestock or wildlife. Take care not to damage items of historical or archeological value.

If you intend to create a significant or prolonged surface disturbance, file a claim and follow the appropriate legal process appropriate for such work. The information for filing a claim can be found at this web site: [http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/prog/mining/mining\\_claim\\_packet.html](http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/prog/mining/mining_claim_packet.html)

These rules exist to ensure everyone's safety and are meant to prolong the enjoyment of all club members. Importantly, share the joy of what you discover. Pass on your knowledge so that others can grow in the hobby. ~Martin

## White Earth Field Trip

The field trip this Saturday will be to the White Earth area on Canyon Ferry. This area contains chalcedony, agate, common opal and gypsum. We will meet up at 8:30am at the East end of Capital Hill Mall at the old Dillard's parking lot. From there we will caravan to the White Earth Campground on Canyon Ferry. Please try to carpool as much as possible.

From the campground we will take a 2 mile boat ride to the White Earth bay. The collecting area is located approximately 1 mile up the gulch from where the boats will drop us off. The weather forecast is for warm temperature and sun, so be sure to use sun screen and bring plenty of drinking water. This is mostly surface collecting so you won't need much equipment. A rock hammer and small hand trowel can be helpful but are not necessary. We will plan on leaving the collecting area around 2:00pm.

This field trip is dependent on the weather and may be altered if high winds or rain occurs. Life Jackets will be required, so if you have one you are encouraged to bring it. If you plan on attending, let me know so I have a rough head count of who is coming. ~Martin

## From the Editor

The Greek philosopher Heraclitus once said, "Change is the only constant in life". As with everything else, the Helena Mineral Club is always changing.

My goal as editor is to make the newsletter available to all club members input. To help reach this goal, I would like to extend everyone an open invitation to submit articles and pictures.

Whatever your passion is with regard to gems, minerals, crystals, fossils, travel, collecting tips, new dig sites, do's and don'ts or even your favorite recipe, I would like to hear about it. Send me an email at [sbrooks245@aol.com](mailto:sbrooks245@aol.com)

Remember, this is YOUR NEWSLETTER!

~Sally

## Helena Mineral Society Officers for 2015-2016

### **President**

Martin Landry  
431-8081  
mlandry121@yahoo.com

### **Vice-president**

Sally Caputo  
458-5862

### **Secretary**

Open

### **Membership Chairman**

Sally Brooks

### **Treasurer**

Teri Smith  
449-2454

### **Member-at-Large**

Gene Hodge  
442-9704

### **Historian**

Carolyn De Martino

### **Field Trip Chairman**

Wayne Waters

### **Show Chairman**

Dan Caputo

### **Program Chairman**

David Jordan  
443-0348

### **Newsletter Editor**

Sally Brooks  
sbrooks245@aol.com  
www.helenamineralsociety.org

## Rock Hound Types

These are meant to be funny. Except for the last paragraph about our club members, all characters are fictitious and any resemblance to real people is coincidental.

*What did you get?* → This collector goes around all day asking "what did you get" in the hopes you will ask him the same question. This gives him the opportunity to pull out a piece you threw away two hours ago or he picked up at a mineral store down the road and now claims to have found it.

*The Sight Seeing Collector* → This person is using the trip to get out of town for some fresh air and doesn't really care about collecting. This one is the first to suggest quitting for the day and most likely to get lost because of wandering away from the dig site.

*The Borrower* → This collector thinks the list of tools prepared for each trip is multiple choice. He brings only half of them and can usually be spotted next to other club members so he can borrow tools. Has a habit of quickly disappearing after breaking something. Chronic amnesia causes this collector to never offer to pay for damages, never remembers what tools he needs to get for the future and always forgets to say thank you.

*The Golden Pick* → He has a backpack filled with credit cards used to purchase minerals at the local rock shop and breaks into a sweat at the thought of swinging a hammer. His criteria for a good field trip is a pool and remote control TV at the motel.

*The Workhorse* → Works slow and steady, starting at one spot and sticks to it throughout the day. If there is a specimen to be found, he will get it.

*The Complainer* → Expects the dig site to be littered with big gemstones. After the inevitable beginners luck discovery, he finds it's all downhill. Then sits on the ground and pokes around with a stick complaining about the failure of the club to plan good trips.

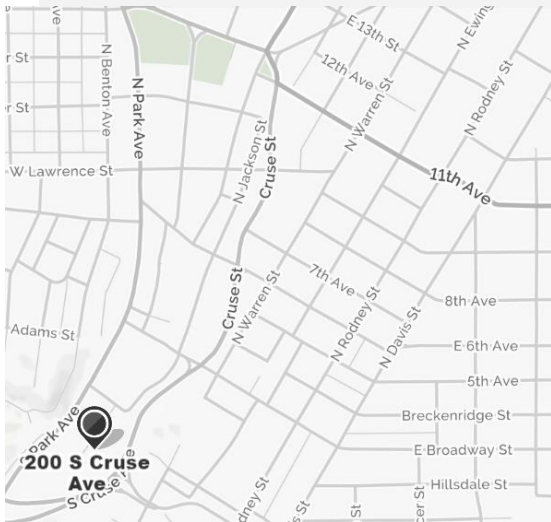
*The Leech* → This guy attaches himself to the side of any successful collector in the hopes of benefiting from their hard work. Can be spotted saying "Let me squeeze in here" but will never actually find anything except what is uncovered by someone else.

**Our Club Members** → Our club members understand this is a group effort. They can be spotted giving away crystals to others, sharing food, water, tools and ideas. They don't complain when the field trip plans change at the last minute and knowing their physical limits, will only participate at appropriate locations and bring the correct tools and safety equipment to the dig sites.

## Club Meetings

The Helena Mineral Society meets at the Neighborhood Center, 200 S. Cruse Ave the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm. (except December)

Friends, guests, and new members are always welcome.



## 2016 Show Pictures

These are some of the other cases at the show this year.



Helena Mineral Society, Inc.

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