



The Helena Mineral Society Newsletter



Gem, Mineral, and Geological Education and Experience

January 2018

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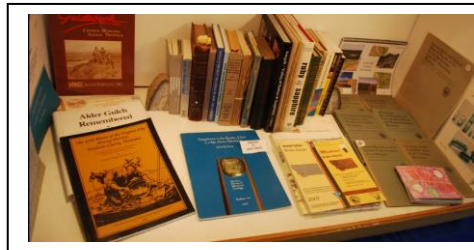
The GEM & MINERAL SHOW is coming.

Make sure you save the date:

Saturday, April 14th & Sunday, April 15th

In addition to the tables set up by the dealers, the club runs several events that encourage others to share or enthusiasm for gems and minerals. If you can help out at the Garnet Dig, the Ball Toss, the Grab Bags sales, the Fluorescent Mineral tent, the Silent Auction Table, and the Beading Table please sign up. The sign up sheets will be available at the Meeting on February 15th. Don't forget we will also need assistance setting up Friday afternoon and taking down after the show. If we do not have enough club members sign up, we will need to eliminate one or more of these activities. If you can only help for 3 or 4 hours even that helps.

The January meeting presentation focused on creating a display case for the show, if you have not consider setting up a display case, I strongly encourage you to consider it. The display can be anything you would like to share that relates to rocks, gems and minerals. Below are a few examples from past shows. Case demensions are 22" deep x 24" tall x 46" long.



**Helena Mineral Society
Officers for 2013-2014**

President: Martin Landry

Vice-president: Cherri Murphy

Secretary: Vacant

Membership: Natalie Jordan

Treasurer: Jan Smith

Member-at-Large: Gene Hodge

Historian: Carolyn DeMartino

Field Trips: Shawn Moore

**Show Chairman: Gary Parisi
442-1226**

Programs Chair: Vacant

Guest Editor: Martin Landry

www.helenamineralsociety.org

Other shows this year!

Kalispell Gem and Mineral Show March 10-11
Fairgrounds Expo Bldg, 265 N Meridian Rd

Missoula Gem and Mineral Show March 17-18
Hilton Garden Inn, 3720 N Reserve St.

Bozeman Gem and Minera Show May 12-13
Gallatin County Fairgrounds, 901 N Black

Hamilton Gem and Mineral Show May 19-20
Ravalli Count Fairgrounds, 100 Old Corvallis Rd

Butte Gem and Mineral Show June 9-10
Civic Center Anex, 1340 Harrison Ave



**Hey you! Yes you, the one reading the Newsletter.
Don't forget, the next meeting is February 15th.**

If you are in Butte, take time to visit the Mineral Museum at Montana Tech.

Winter Hours Weekdays 9am – 4pm Summer Hours Daily 9am – 5pm (June 15 – Sept 15)



Minerals from Butte and other Montana localities

Butte was once home to one of the biggest copper mining operations in the world and was known for 'electrifying' America during the late 19th century and early 20th century. The Mineral Museum has spectacular specimens from the underground mines, including the copper minerals such as bornite, enargite, digenite, and covellite, and other minerals such as rhodocrosite and molybdenite. The underground mines closed in 1978. Open pit mining continues today in the Continental Pit.



Modern Mining

Known as the "Treasure State", Montana continues a long tradition of mining. Copper, molybdenum, gold, talc, and various rocks are commercially important, and collectors seek out minerals such as agate and sapphires.




Fluorescent Minerals

The Fluorescent Mineral room provides a stunning display of minerals under short wave and long wave ultraviolet light. When exposed to certain wavelengths of light, some minerals fluoresce. See how the mineral halite (also known as salt) changes when viewed under ultraviolet light.

<http://www.mbm.mtech.edu/museum/museum.html>



Mohs Hardness Scale



Mineral Name	Scale Number	Common Object
Diamond	10	
Corundum	9	Masonry Drill Bit (8.5)
Topaz	8	
Quartz	7	Steel Nail (6.5)
Orthoclase	6	
Apatite	5	Knife/Glass Plate (5.5)
Fluorite	4	
Calcite	3	Copper Penny (3.5)
Gypsum	2	
Talc	1	Fingernail (2.5)

Increasing Hardness

If you have a picture that you want to share, submit it with a short description of the activity, where it took place, and when, and we'll put it in the newsletter. If you'd like to share your field trip adventures, please feel free to contribute to the newsletter. Just e-mail me your experiences, and we'll make sure they're entered. Your contributions are welcome.

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