

November —
December 2011

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Inside this issue:

Unofficial meeting minutes	2
Continuation about rock collecting events	2
Iron Pyrite	3
A message from a member	3
Programs	4

A Stone's Throw

The Bozeman Gem and Mineral Club

Let's hear from our President, John Usher

I've been a member of our rock club since 1995 and I've never seen so much activity and involvement. Right now we are on the verge of getting our own clubhouse for meetings, storage, and a lapidary workshop. This has been considered as an impossible dream for years. Thank you to the members who got the ball rolling and thank you to the members who gathered together the Dobson/

Freese collection in difficult conditions all of last winter.

The income from silent auctions will help us afford our clubhouse rental. We'll go over everything at our next meeting.

John Usher,
Club President



Meeting Dates:

- November 15, 2011
- December 14, 2011
- January 17, 2012
- February 21, 2012
- March 20, 2012

Upcoming Events and Rock Collecting

Please contact Carl Idland if you know of somewhere to collect. We are always looking for new places to go.

November 12, 2011

A trip to Barrick Golden Sunlight Mine North of Whitehall was arranged by Joyce Shepard. This is a tour of the mine.

We will meet at the Belgrade Albertsons parking lot at **11:15AM**. We will leave promptly at **11:30** in order to arrive at the mine at 12:30.

Due to the later time than normal, please plan on eating lunch before we leave.

This tour will last approximately 3 hours or so.

The mine will provide a shuttle bus up to see the overlook and depending on the number of people, will have to make two trips since it only seats 12 at a time. *So be prepared to hang out for awhile.*

More details are on page 2 of the newsletter.

Upcoming Events continued.

We will be able to collect pyrite after the bus ride so make sure to bring something to put it in.

Sounds like smaller sizes are allowed so bring small bags to put pieces in and a **rock hammer** to hammer pieces out of bigger rock.

Does not sound like a bucket day. Since this is a trip in NOVEMBER....

Make sure to **DRESS ACCORDINGLY.**

Make sure you are ready to be outside in the cold, snow, and *wind*.

Does not sound like much walking will be on this tour but will entail riding on the bus (on/off) and waiting for the bus to make multiple trips.

If there is inclement weather, the trip will be postponed until the following weekend, Saturday November 19, 2011.

Unofficial Minutes of the Septemter meeting

Program – Ken Zahn shared a video of the 2010 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. The marble statue American Woman, a woman on a piano, carved out of a single piece of Colorado marble.

Old Business:

Contact John Usher if you want to be the official field trip chairman.

We could out that the Federation has club insurance but we decided that the club has good insurance already.

New Business:

The club is working toward renting a building at the fairground. We will get more information at the next meeting. We will be able to set up equipment for demonstrations and also have displays. This is an on going project—hopefully we will know more at our November meeting.

Ken volunteered to have a table at the Missoula and billings how it there was room available. It was moved and sec

onded to allow Ken to setup a table to sell rocks from the Dobson/Freese Collection. It was passed.

Cheryl Bennett will make arrangements for the Christmas Party/Potluck at the Senior Center. The date available is December 14. Dinner begins at 6:00 followed by a silent auction and a live auction. The meat will be provided—bring something to share. Please bring your own plates and dinnerware. Plan to come.

John is going to order labels especially made to keep with the specimens that we collect. These labels are used to organize our collections. They cost \$2.70 for 100 labels.

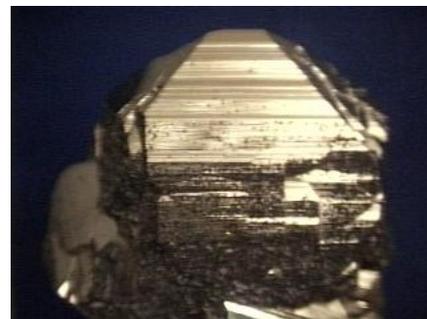
The Yellowstone Talc Mine field trip will take place in October. Meet at the Town Pump in 4 Corners at 7:45.

A couple of people went to the Denver Show during September 16, 17 18.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50.

Upcoming Events continued.

If the weather looks bad ahead of schedule, an email will be sent out. Otherwise, you can call on the day of the fieldtrip if the weather looks nasty. Joyce Shepard@ 406-599-6754



Iron Pyrite

The mineral pyrite, or **iron pyrite**, is an iron sulfide with the formula FeS_2 . This mineral's metallic luster and pale-to-normal, brass-yellow hue have earned it the nickname **fool's gold** because of its resemblance to gold. The color has also led to the nicknames **brass**, **brazzle** and **Brazil**, primarily used to refer to pyrite found in coal.^{[5][6]}

Pyrite is the most common of the sulfide minerals. The name pyrite is derived from the Greek πυρίτης (puritēs), "of fire" or "in fire", from πύρ (pur), "fire". In ancient Roman times, this name was applied to several types of stone that would create sparks when struck against steel; Pliny the Elder described one of them as being brassy, almost certainly a reference to what we now call pyrite.^[7] By Georgius Agricola's time, the term had become a generic term for all of the sulfide minerals.^[8]

Pyrite is usually found associated with other sulfides or oxides in quartz veins, sedimentary rock, and metamorphic rock, as well as in coal beds, and as a replacement mineral in fossils. Despite being nicknamed fool's gold, pyrite is sometimes found in association with small quantities of gold. Gold and arsenic occur as a coupled substitution in the pyrite structure. In the Carlin, Nevada gold deposit, arsenian pyrite contains up to 0.37 wt% gold.^[9]

Look here for more information. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pyrite>



A mass of intergrown pyrite crystals



Disc or "pyrite dollar"



Pyrite from Ampliación a Victoria Mine, Navajún, La Rioja, Spain



Cubes in rock

Do you have an expertise in something—why not give a program.

One persons' reason for joining our rock club

Barnie Franke is formerly from the Madison Gem and Mineral Club as a Charter Member. His son has been the show chairman in Madison WI for 8-10 years. Barnie attended the Bozeman Gem and Mineral Club show in May with a neighbor and both were very impressed by the numbers of exhibits and crowd. He came from a club with some of the best equipment and a lab which was lost. He believes that a lab is one of the greatest assets a club can have as long as someone can teach lapidary.

Thanks Barnie for your kind words. Welcome to the club.

Programs

Ken Zahn, our Program Chairperson, arranges for presentations at our meetings.

Suggestions are always welcome.

Programs in Place:

- **November 15th:**

Our program is still being determined. We will be electing new officers for the club.

- **December 14th:**

Christmas Party at the Senior Center with silent and live auction. 6:00 dinner.

- Upcoming program—Mark Perkins to talk about fossils or Indian artifacts.



The Bozeman Gem and Mineral Club meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Belgrade Valley Bank building at 7:00 pm. The meeting room is downstairs. We have a program at the beginning, a social time with “show and tell”, a silent auction of great mineral samples, and then our business meeting. We would like to start a Junior club if anyone has an interest or ideas to make this happen. We always encourage young people to attend meetings and rock outings.

Contact John Usher or Kathy if you have questions or suggestions.

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A Stone's Throw

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We're also on Facebook.
Bozeman Rock and Gem Club