



ROCK and MINERAL CLUB
P.O. Box 102
ISHPEMING, MICHIGAN 49849

Spring Issue

April 2000

Purpose Statement

To enjoy, to learn, to teach and conserve

The rocks, the gems, the fossils and ores,

To collect, to admire, to brag and to show

The material we've found, we'll trade for yours.

Bob and Marian Markert



The Official publication of the Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club is published quarterly in January, April, July and October.

The club logo and name are registered.

THE JASPILITE

From the President's Desk...

I don't know about the rest of you who reside in the north country, but to me it has been a great winter. The weather was great, with enough snow to satisfy most everyone, and not too cold along with a streak of very nice, warm 70 degree weather the last of February that was fantastic. It made you want to get outside and look for rocks, which I did. I did not find much.

This Jaspilite is being published by the club's new editor -- Sue Syrjala. Sue has been a member of the club for a number of years and was club secretary at one time. I thank Sue for stepping forward and volunteering. She works for the Marquette Chamber (Lake Superior Community Partnership) and recently won

the honor of the Business and Professional Woman's Woman of Achievement award. She is the first woman to be honored with both this award and BPW'S Woman of the Year award.

On behalf of the club, I would like to thank Pam Basal for her work and effort during her tenure as Jaspilite editor. She, like all past editors, was committed to publishing a newsletter that maintained a positive image for the club and its members. Again, thank you, Pam, for your effort and commitment.

The club is looking for suggestions for future programs. Ray DeMark has done a great job with very good informational programs for the club and its members. Those of you who were in the

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Meeting Schedule

Business Meetings:

2nd Thursday of Month—
7 pm at the Jacobetti Veterans
Facility located at 425 Fisher
Street, Marquette



Program Meetings:

3rd Sunday of Month—2 pm at
the Marquette Township Hall
located at 1612 Co Rd 492,
Marquette



April's mystery mineral should be easy for everyone. It has simple chemistry and distinctive physical characteristics that separate it from almost all other minerals. Chemically, it is molybdenum sulfide (MoS_2). It has hexagonal symmetry with a perfect, easy cleavage. Laminae are very flexible although not elastic and it is sectile. It is very soft with a hardness of 1-1.5 and a specific gravity of 4/62-5.06. It is lead gray, opaque and has a metallic luster. It feels greasy and has a greenish

streak. Crystals are usually thin to thick tabular, with poorly developed faces and a roughly hexagonal outline. It commonly occurs as foliate or radiate masses, scales or disseminates grains. It is the most abundant molybdenum mineral and is found in high temperature veins, contact metamorphic deposits, granites, pegmatites and aplites. This mineral was mined as ore at Climax, Colorado, Questa, New Mexico and many other locations in the U.S. and around the



world. It is commonly recovered as a by-product of porphy copper mining at locations in the southwestern U.S. It has only been reported from the U.P. in Michigan and the majority of occurrences are in Marquette County. It is quite common at the Champion Mine and is also found at the Ropes Gold Mine and the Michigan Gold Mine.

Good Luck!

Mystery Mineral for May

May's mystery mineral is a very common one, but good quality specimens are not common. It is a potassium, aluminum silicate with hydroxyl, $\text{KAl}_2(\text{Si}_3\text{A})_{10}(\text{OH}1\text{F})_2$ that is monoclinic by appears to be hexagonal. It has perfect basal cleavage and can be split into very thin laminae. In earlier eras it was used for window plates in homes and for viewing ports in stoves (isinglass) due to its occurrence in large plates that could be split into transparent sheets. The hardness is 2-2.5 with a specific gravity of 2.76-3. The luster is vit-



rious to more or less pearly or silky. It can be colorless, gray, brown, green, purple, yellow and even pink. The term "fuchsite" is applied to green varieties of this mineral. The streak is uncolored and is transparent to translucent. It has been found in well developed crystals but more commonly occurs in foliated aggregates or scaly to plumose forms. When very fine grained, the geological term sericite is used. It is most commonly found in granite or granitic pegmatites but is also an essential constituent at mica shists or phyl-

lites. It has been mined in many areas for use in paints or as an insulation material in electrical apparatus. It is a widespread mineral around the world but particularly nice crystals of this mineral have come from Brazil. It is perhaps best known in this country from localities in the Northeast and North Carolina. Attractive pink or rose colored specimens occur at the Hurding Mine in Taos Co, New Mexico. It has only been reported from the U.P. in Michigan but not in noteworthy specimens. *Note: Everybody should know this mineral!*



From the President's Desk...Continued



position to attend the program meetings club's historian. (see write up) in January, February and March and for whatever reason did not, lost out. It takes time and effort to research and present quality programs so any help you can provide in finding future programs would be a great help.

Again, on behalf of the club, I would like to thank Kathy Waters for her work and effort during her time as club secretary. She did a yeoman's job in maintaining the minutes of the club as they provide that historical history we need for future reference. She had to put up with three different presidents, including me, who at times did not follow the agenda. We just kind of went our own way. Thank you, Kathy. She is staying involved and has volunteered to be the

friend, the kid next door, or someone down the street to our next program meeting. Remember, the club is your club. Without everyone's involvement, a club such as ours does not grow and provide a place for the sharing of knowledge, a place to learn, a place to enjoy and meet new friends.

Remember the show. (see write up) Help All for now. Enjoy the world around you and the great outdoors.

Ernie Johnson

Mark Your Calendars!

Surplus Sale
A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum
Saturday, June 10, 2000
9:00 am—5:00 pm

In the A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum
 Located on the 5th floor,
 EERC building on the campus
 of Michigan Technological University

Great Stuff:

- Individual collector-quality specimens from worldwide localities
- Large selection of Michigan Copper Country Specimens
- Large selection of Michigan Iron District specimens
- Rare species and historic reference specimens

For more information on the sale, contact the museum at:
 Phone: 906-487-2572 between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm
 Fax: 906-487-3027 or email Bob Barron at rjbarron@mtu.edu

Friends and Gems

Rockhounds who have been in the hobby for sometime begin to realize that the most precious gems they have collected are the friends they have made along the way. Some are still in the rough; some are highly polished; some are dull and colorless until viewed in the right light. And like every gemstone in nature, they also have inclusions, sometimes referred to as flaws. If we enjoy them as they are, realizing their warmth and beauty make up for their imperfections, if we concentrate on their better aspects, the flaws become insignificant and merely marks of individuality.

The Rocky Reader 2/2000, Golden Spike News, via the Yellowstone Deposit via Rockonteur 1/00

GEM AND MINERAL SHOW 2000

Saturday, August 5



The name has been changed to better reflect the true activities of the show. Being it will be the club's 25th annual show, the theme will be Silver. It will be used wherever possible ... starting with the raffle tickets which will be silver gray. The first prize is 25 ounces of silver.

Along with the normal activities of the show, we are requesting that all members, if possible, enter a display of some type. The Seamen Museum has been contacted about a silver display. We are also working on a historical display of the club. (see write-up elsewhere in the Jaspilite)

As always, we are looking for commitments from members to work a 2-hour span sometime during the day so everyone has the chance to enjoy the show. Currently we are in need of individuals that can demonstrate an activity that would be of interest to the attendees. Use your imagination, people are interested in any activity concerning our hobby.

As you are field-tripping your basement, yard, or wherever making room for this summer's great finds, set some aside for the show; i.e. Silent auction, kids' table or door prizes. If you can donate a raffle prize, please do; and let us know so it can be recorded. Any suggestions or comments you may have for enhancing the show will be appreciated.

If you would like flyers to send to someone, call me; and we will get you some. Remember, this is the club's show which, in turn, is your show. The more you become involved, the more you learn and the greater the enjoyment is. Mark your calendar now ... you do not want to miss our 25th annual show.

If we don't see you before, we will see you at the show on August 5, 2000.

Ernie Johnson—Co-Chair
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Kathy Waters—Co-chair
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Phone 906-486-9094
e-mail sky1171@yahoo.com



Welcome to our newest members:

Carey Crankshaw

700 Summit Apt 2, Marquette, MI 49855

Carey is our latest scholarship recipient at NMU. She has attended our program meetings since January 2000.

Virginia Long

355 E Hewitt St, Marquette, MI 49855

Virginia had been a member of IRMC in years past. She is currently involved with rock-related activities at the "former" Parkview School.

Elaine, Jennifer and Marie Reff

220 Van Epps, Marquette, MI 49855

Elaine is the daughter of the Swadicks and of course, the girls are the granddaughters.

Beth Robinson

809 Grove Street, Marquette, MI 49855

Beth is a homemaker and is interested in reading as well as helping her grandson with his rock collecting.

Helen Johnson

Check out these websites!

Club homepage

<http://hometown.aol.com/irockclub/IRMC.html>

Email:

irockclub@aol.com

Member Sites

Dan Fountain's Home Page:

www.portup.com/~dfount/home.htm

Mike Basal's MPB Minerals Home Page:

[Http://members.aol.com/_ht_b/mpbmincoll/MPB.html](http://members.aol.com/_ht_b/mpbmincoll/MPB.html)

Kathy Water's Fire Center Studio

www.upbiz.com/catalogs/firecenter/index.html

Seaman Mineralogical Museum

www.geo.mtu.edu/museum



On the lighter side...

On a church door:

This is the gate of heaven. Enter ye all by this door. (This door kept locked because of the draft. Please use side door.)

Outside a photography studio:

Out to lunch.

If not back by five, out for dinner also.

IRMC MEMBERSHIP

To date (April 2000), we have 117 adult members and 8 junior members. Together with our 5 life members and our 2 honorary members, they represent 84 households!

Many of these members are out-of-town members. We do hope, however, that they along with all of our local members, will attend as many of the meetings, field trips, and activities as they can.

The attendance at our recent meetings has been down compared with past years. With the early spring we are having and the warmer weather upon us, maybe we can all make an extra effort to attend both the business and program meetings as well as the summer field trips and activities.

Helen Johnson

Kaleidoscope 2000

On February 19, 2000 the Superior Dome was the place to be for Pebble Puppies and Future Rockhounds! Club members Ernie Johnson, Ray Demark, Olive Sain, Ginney Foreman, and Joyce and Allen Smith provided an intriguing display of hands-on activities and a wealth of information. Thousands of children, from toddlers to fifth graders came to Kaleidoscope, a winter activity sponsored by groups whose interest is to foster children's programs.



IRMC President Ernie Johnson presenting Joseph Moschetti, from Marquette the winner of three egg cartons of mineral specimens. He correctly guessed the number of pellets in a glass jar at Kaleidoscope.

Rock club members provided great samples of rocks and minerals that children could pick up, investigate and use. They could write on slate or use graphite to write with. Magnifying glasses and microscopes were on hand for that closer look at a favorite rock. Children even got to try on rockhound "gear".

Ray demonstrated how galena would split and gave wide-eyed youngsters a sample of the mineral. Olive provided her expertise showing children what some beautiful crystals looked like through her microscope. Ginny ran a "fish pond" where little ones could catch a rock specimen including its correct label and the location where it was found. Joyce supervised the "digging" for specimens in a tub of sand. This was a popular activity for all ages. Especially when they discovered beautiful polished rocks. In the meanwhile, Allen and Ernie provided the information on the club, rock identification, and how rockhounds do things, to both young and old participants.

The display often had repeat visits. Parents remarked on how their children kept asking to return to this area. It could have been the wonderful free samples that were given away. It could have been the cordial greetings and helpful information given out by all of the workers. However, I believe it was the genuine love of collecting and identifying rocks that the club members conveyed to each visitor.

Joyce Smith

FIELD TRIPS - 2000

We are looking for SUGGESTIONS FOR SUMMER FIELD TRIPS.



Currently, we are working with CCI to collect on the poor rock piles at the Republic Mine. If and when this becomes a reality, members will be notified. This field trip will be for members "ONLY"; and they must be on the membership roster one month prior to the trip. This is due to insurance and the need to provide a projected count for the trip.

Trips such as this is one of the benefits of being a member. Currently, through the efforts of Mike Basal, the club has a tentative O.K. for the Ropes Gold Mine area as one of the fields trips associated with the 2000 show. This trip will be open to all; but we will be asking members to help oversee it. This leaves the club short 2 or 3 field trips.

We need your input and help in locating possible trip sites! Contact any club officer if you have a suggestion.

Ernest Johnson 1962 W Fair, Marquette MI 49855
Phone 906-228-9422 e-mail ejohnson@nmu.edu

Where is the Ishpeming Rock & Mineral Club headed?

How did it begin and down what paths has it traveled?

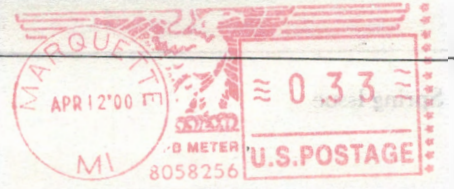
The year 2000 is our club's 25th year, and with that, comes a desire to track our past. This is especially important for our new and junior members. Please help me in cataloging a "Scrap Book" of written stories, biographies, photos, and published articles of the people and times of the club. I know we have quite a collection of "Specimens" and have heard some "Gems" of collecting tales. I'll be waiting to hear from you.....

IRMC historian, Katherine Waters



Future Rockhound?

31st Annual Agate Days
in Moose Lake, Minnesota
Sat—Sun July 15 & 16, 2000
Agate Stampede 2 pm Sat. July 15
\$300 in quarters and 350 lbs of agates are added to a truck full of gravel and spread out for a wild scramble of finders keepers!
Call Tom Olsen at 218-384-4961 for details.



JASPILITE



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WE'RE ON THE WEB! CHECK IT OUT
[HTTP://HOMETOWN.AOL.COM/IROCKCLUB/IRMC.HTML](http://hometown.aol.com/irockclub/irmc.html)

Ishpeming Rock & Mineral Club contacts:

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|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
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