

Club Newsletter--October 2010

MINERAL OF THE MONTH CLUB

Dear Club member,

Hope you're having a good autumn! Our September is always centered around our trip to the Denver Gem & Mineral Show. Two and a half days of driving, two and a half days of shopping, one day of set-up, three days of selling, and boom, it's over--just like that! And it seems to go by that quickly, too. But we made the most of it, especially the buying, picking up large lots of scolecite from India and azurite from the famous Morenci mine in Arizona to feature next year in the Club, along with lots of other excellent specimens we will describe in upcoming offer sheets. (We only send the Offer sheets via Email now, as we can include color photos so easily; however, we can print and mail you a color copy if you request us to--just let us know.)

Around the original Denver Gem & Mineral Show have sprung up at least seven satellite shows, so that Denver is now kind of a mini-Tucson show (Tucson of course lasts more than two weeks and features more than forty shows.) Time does not permit us to visit all the shows, as much as we would like to--you would practically have to run through the shows to see them all, and how can you do that when there are so many magnificent things to see? So went spent the bulk of our time at the show featuring the most mineral dealers, of course, and saw as much as we could see in the time we had.

Sticker-shock seemed especially rampant this year--so many dealers have such high prices on their material! We just can't understand the thinking--certainly the minerals are valuable and the collectors/miners deserve fair compensation for their efforts, and all the vendors need to earn a living, but do they hope to do it by selling just one piece? Obviously, the finest of the fine deserve the steep prices they command, but the midrange minerals that fit most collectors' budgets are getting harder and harder to find. While discouraging to us at times, at other times, it just makes us more determined to find the reasonably priced pieces!

The Denver Gem & Mineral show we sell at was excellent as usual. About ten Club members came by our booth and picked out nice pieces, and it was wonderful to see them in person. We love the Denver Show because the visitors are so nice, our booth is so roomy, the show is put on so well by the local gem-and-mineral clubs, and we always sell a lot there, too! Of course, it probably helps that we have so much new material for sale there--pieces we pick up on Monday through Wednesday are often gone by Sunday! (Of course, we set aside a pallet's worth of material to send home for future shows and for Club members.) We're really looking forward to our local shows in October!

The theme at the show this year was "Minerals of the Creede District," and many of the exhibits featured fine specimens from this much-loved area in Colorado, a district we are not terribly familiar with. Many of the specimens on display in the exhibit cases were of sulfide minerals from Creede, and though mineralogically quite fascinating, there were not as many of the spectacular gemmy crystals of rhodochrosite, tourmaline, aquamarine, and the other brightly colored, translucent minerals as usual.

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Reflecting back on our whirlwind trip makes us deeply appreciative of our Club members who make it possible for us to continue being part of the mineral world and take trips to Denver each year! Thinking ahead to the fifteenth anniversary of our Club, coming up next March, makes us want to say "Thank you so much!" to each and every one of you who make it all possible! Next March will be a special month for us, our 180th featured mineral!

HÜBNERITE COMING IN NOVEMBER. This will mark two firsts: our first mineral containing tungsten and our first mineral spelled with an umlaut! The write-up has a special section on the former and a sentence or two on the latter. And the hübnerite specimens are quite outstanding, too!

NEW MEMBERS FOR AUGUST 2010--WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS!

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| Erik Battat | Serge Parel | Irwin Phillips |
| Randall Allen | Robert Maier | |

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING SHOWS--SAVE THE DATES

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| Big Sur Jade Festival Pacific Valley School Highway 1 Opposite Sand Dollar Beach October 8, 9, and 10, 2010 | Fall Cayucos Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Show Cayucos Vets Hall at the Pier 10 Cayucos Drive, Cayucos October 16 and 17, 2010 |
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Fall West Coast Gem & Mineral Show
Canceled this year while the promoter finds another
venue for show next year

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING MINERALS

November 2010 Hübnerite from the Mundo Nuevo Mine, Pasto Bueno District, Ancash Department, Peru. Lustrous black crystals from a new find!

December 2010 Boulder Opal from Australia--what a way to end the year!

January 2010 Carnelian from Madagascar.

February 2010 and beyond Scolecite from India, Azurite from Arizona, and we're working on Ferro-axinite from California, purple Credite from Colorado, and several others!

Please inform us by the last day of this month if you wish to pass on next month's specimen.

When you are finished examining and studying this month's amazing piece, get ready for another remarkable specimen for November! We wish you the best until then---MOTMC Team (Richard, Cheryl, Cheyenne, Diana, and Heather)