

HUI PŌHAKU 'Ō HAWAII

Rock & Mineral Society of Hawai'i, Inc.



Meeting Times

MEETING

Wednesday
October 28, 2015

6:15-8:00 pm

Makiki District Park
Admin Building

NEXT MONTH

Topaz

LAPIDARY

Every Thursday

6:00-8:30pm

Makiki District Park
2nd floor Arts and
Crafts Bldg

MEMBERSHIP

DUE COSTS 2015

Single: \$10.00

Family: \$15.00

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P.O. Box 23020

Honolulu, HI

96823-3020

Marus Faigle

This month our own Marcus Faigle, will be talking about his adventures digging, actually really hard digging for Herkimer Diamonds.

"Herkimer Diamonds" is the name given to the doubly terminated quartz crystals found in Herkimer County, New York and surrounding areas. These crystals have the typical hexagonal habit of quartz, however, instead of having a termination only on one end, they are doubly terminated. This is a result of the crystals growing with very little or no contact with their host rock. Such doubly terminated crystals are not common, which makes Herkimer Diamonds popular with mineral collectors.



Herkimer Diamond,
Ace of Diamond Mine, NY

The name Herkimer Diamond came about because to the sparkling crystals look like real diamonds and since these unique crystals are found in Herkimer County, named after the Revolutionary War General Nicholas Herkimer thus the name Herkimer Diamonds. Additionally, the Mohawk Indians which were native to this area, were known as "The People of the Crystals".



Herkimer Diamond, Ace
of Diamond Mine, NY

The host rock for Herkimer Diamonds is the Cambrian-

Marcus Faigle

-age, Little Falls Dolostone. This Dolomite limestone was deposited about 500 million years ago and the Herkimer Diamonds formed in cavities within the dolostone.

Although Herkimer County, New York is the location for which these crystals are named, similar doubly terminated quartz crystals have been found in a few other locations, including Arizona, Afghanistan, China, Mexico, Norway, and Ukraine.



"Herkimer Diamonds" found in Afghanistan. Similar crystals are found at several locations.

Some of the best places to find Herkimer Diamonds today are located along New York State Route 28 in Middleville, New York. Here lies two commercial mines: [Ace of Diamonds Mine](#) and [Herkimer Diamond Mine](#). Both allow collectors to enter and prospect for a nominal fee. Both locations also rent equipment such as hammers, wedges and other small tools. They also have small exhibit areas where you can view and/or purchase specimens.

can be very small or several feet across. At both of the mines Dolomite is exposed at the surface and a significant amount of broken rock is scattered across the quarry floor.

To find Herkimer Diamonds, be aware that they occur in cavities or vugs within the Dolomite. These cavities

One can find pieces of vuggy rock and break them open with a heavy hammer. If you are lucky the rock will break to reveal one or several Herkimer Diamonds within a cavity.



Herkimer Diamond Pocket, Ace of Diamond Mine, NY

Alternatively, if you have heavier equipment (i.e sledge hammers, wedges, and pry bars) as Dolomite is very, very tough you can pound your way into it to see if you can find vugs quarry walls and floors. This method requires tools, patience, time and a knowledge of how to break an extremely

durable dolomite. No the object is not to beat the stone into submission, as you will find out quickly that you will lose. The object is to find fractures somewhere and use wedges and sledge hammers to try to break parts of the dolomite free.



Herkimer Diamond Mine, NY

If a you are lucky and determined to prevail over the dolomite, the reward could be breaking into a cavity, which may contain a few to a few hundred nice Herkimer Diamonds. Perfect single crystals, doubles and crystal clusters might all be found in a single cavity.

WE HAVE A FACEBOOK PAGE! LET'S GO LIKE IT!

HTTP://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PAGES/ROCK-AND-MINERAL-SOCIETY-OF-HAWAII/103902329673700?V=WALL&REF=SGM

MAHALO TO MARKUS FOR ESTABLISHING OUR *ROCK FACE!*

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Newsletter Editor

The Rock & Mineral Society meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month (except for adjusted dates in November and December) at the Makiki District Park, 6:15-8 pm. Enter from Keeaumoku Street. Parking is free but limited.

The Newsletter is published monthly, some days prior to the meetings and is distributed in electronic format by email (Adobe Acrobat PDF file attachment). Printed copies are "snail" mailed to those who do not have email. The electronic format usually contains full-color images; the print version may be limited to B&W due to reproduction costs.

DOOR PRIZES

Please note that we have instituted door prize drawings at our monthly meetings. Because of Hawaii's gambling laws, these drawings cannot be conducted in the common "raffle" format where tickets are sold. Rather, each *paid* member attending the meeting will receive a drawing ticket upon request. A voluntary donation of \$1.00 is requested and encouraged. Drawings will be conducted at the end of the meeting with available prizes awarded in random order. You must be present to win. Please remember: if you win a prize, please bring one to the next meeting. This helps to keep our drawings going. Thank you.

Rock & FREE ADMISSION

Mineral Show

Oct. 24 & 25, 2015 • 10am to 5 pm •

Outrigger on the Beach Hotel, Waikiki • Leahi Room
Special displays and dealer sales



Rocks * Minerals * Gems * Jewelry
Lapidary * Fossils * Meteorites & More!



We can also help identify your mineral & fossil specimens.

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http://pohakugalore.net/Hui_pohaku/Annual-Hawaii-Mineral-Show.html

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