



The PRESQUE ISLE PROSPECTOR



Official Publication of the Gem City Rock and Mineral Society
Monthly Meetings, First Friday at 7:30 PM

June 2005



Last Month's Meeting:

Last month we started our real planning for the July Gem Show, and discussed some possibilities for Fall Projects; we decided to put off a decision until this month, so if you have any more ideas, bring them along to this month's meeting.

This Month's Meeting:

This month our meeting will be **Friday, June 3rd at 7:30PM** at the Club Rooms – note the return to **Friday Night** meetings with the spring!

Now that it's June, the Club's **Gem Show on July 16 & 17** is only **6 weeks away!** (Gulp!) We all have those dates circled on our calendars, right? Well, we need to determine what activities we will have, especially for the Children's Area, and what we already have / will need to acquire in the way of supplies for them. In particular, if you have anything to contribute for putting in the Discovery Blocks or for Egg Carton Mineral Collections, or for the Mini-Mine, please bring it along. We will also need to start getting an idea of what kind of man-power we'll have available – many of the areas that require a club member to man them do not take any skill or experience, even much in the way of hard labor (though that is always welcome in the set-up and clean-up phases!). If you can be there for an hour or two, and sit in a chair, we'd be grateful for the help.

Discovery Blocks: We got one batch made up, and plan to mix up the second after the meeting this month. This work is not exactly arduous, and only a couple of people need to get their hands dirty (generally one mixer and one 'glop'-er to slap a handful of the mixture into the ring forms – perfect for those of us who never got enough of mud pies as a kid); then we need a few people with clean hands to sort out the goodies and drop them into the forms on top of the base glop, before being topped off with the cover glop.

Major Project: The last couple of years, we have decided in the spring on a 'major project' that we would work on in the fall, so that we could shop for materials at the show. One year we made Slab Clocks, and everyone shopped for pretty slabs; last year we made tabletop fountains, and since you can put just about anything that can get wet in a fountain, some of us did a LOT of shopping for that one!

Many people made clocks, and a few made fountains; now it's time to come up with a project for this year. We had a few suggestions at last month's meeting, but we'd like more, so if you have any suggestions for such a project, please bring them along – a picture or sketch would be helpful if you can find one, but any suggestions are welcome. Look through old rock-related magazines for ideas, or cruise the Internet. What would you really like to do / make that the club hasn't done? Lapidary? Silver Project? Wire-Wrapping? Anything that we can demonstrate to a dozen or so people, and have them complete or nearly complete it in two month's meetings and maybe a work session.

Field Trip: We try to take a field trip each year, but don't always manage to organize one. We have one possibility we're planning to check out (see later section), but again this year, I'd like to make a special request that each member bring a suggestion of a place to go, preferably with some specific info on where it is / how to get there / what to do there / what it will cost.

Ideas could be anything within day-trip range, or even long-weekend range – two years ago we managed to arrange a weekend trip to mine Herkimer Diamonds, and while it turned out that only 3 of

Club Web Site address: <http://www.treebeard.net/gemcity/index.htm>

President	Robert Gallivan	427 Colleen Dr.	Erie PA 16505-2101	(814) 454-6770
Vice-president	Sarah Boesch	1223 Lake St.	Lake City PA 16423-1808	(814) 774-4234
Secretary	Harriet Beckman	2239 South Shore Dr.	Erie PA 16505-2154	(814) 455-4851
Treasurer	Val Engelleiter	132 Moorehead St.	Erie PA 16508-1859	(814) 454-1771
Newsletter Editor	Harriet Beckman	email: gemcity@treebeard.net	(814) 455-4851	
Board Members:	Robert Perry	Dale Pysher	Mary Thomson	

us could schedule a common weekend, there were several more ready to go until we couldn't find a common weekend.

They could be of collecting places, or museums or special exhibits, or geologic features, or anything else you think might be interesting. The trip to Geiger's Monuments isn't any one of the above, but turned out to be VERY interesting!

For sources of ideas, look through old issues of *Rock & Gem* or *Lapidary Journal* or any other rock-related magazines. Or try looking at web sites of other rock clubs in this part of the country, and see where they're going. I can look at these sources myself, but I certainly don't have time to look at them all, so anything you can do to help, will help.

Club Equipment Use Policy

The Club has quite a bit of equipment, both lapidary and silver-working, for the use of club members. This equipment may be used by any dues-paying club member, providing they've had some instruction in its proper use so as to minimize the risk of damage to either the equipment or the user ☺, and providing there are at least two club members in the clubrooms for safety. In this way, we can hope to share the love of lapidary and jewelry making in accordance with our mission as a non-profit educational entity.

What has not been stated for some time, however, and perhaps should be stated again, is that it is also club policy that members NOT use club equipment for their own for-profit ventures. This is so that we don't ever run into a situation where our non-profit status could be questioned, or our insurance liability be ambiguous.

This does not mean that you could never sell anything that you have made using some club equipment, as some of us do from time to time sell or trade an item or two to finance the cost of materials on future projects; but if you are making and selling things for the purpose of generating income, then you are a business, and need to have your own equipment (and your own insurance!). You could still use club equipment to learn new things, but anything that could be considered "production" should not be done using club equipment. This not only saves on wear-and-tear of equipment purchased for all club members, but also better safeguards our educational non-profit status.

If you have any questions about whether what you would like to do is in keeping with the club's policy, you can ask any board member, who will either be able to give you a clear answer or will consult the rest of the board in cases that might be unclear. Complying with this policy will help keep the club healthy and out of hot water, so we can continue to be here to teach future members!

Field Trip Report:

You may recall that club member Ed was planning a collecting trip to North Carolina, and invited other interested club members to go along. Well, no one took him up on it, but he decided to share the trip with us in his description and photos:

On April 8th I left for the Glendon pyrophyllite mine for pyrite as planned. When I arrived in NC would you believe it rained, and did it rain. Well by the morning of the 9th there was no rain but let me tell you pyrophyllite is like quick sand, I was not as lucky as some but they were there before and knew what to do. The mine is only open for 4 hours a day twice a year and is well worth a the trip under normal conditions and not knowing what or how to do things, well yes I got stuck half way up the boots and couldn't



Glendon Pyrite Mine Floor



My Large Pyrite Cleaned



My Find

get out, got help to dig me out (sorry no pictures) but about an hour into it I found my first piece of pyrite, not too good but a keeper.

Just walking around in this was very time consuming. I did find one (with the rock pick) and some got complete cubes up to 6 inches, I could not believe what one person pulled out if I didn't see them myself. I took a couple of pictures of one man's find, he stated he found them within the first hour and it took him 3 hours to dig them out. (pictures of the pyrite cubes are on the hand truck) and yes that is a quarter on them. The next trip will be in Oct. and if it doesn't rain it should be rewarding.



On the Handtruck – with Quarter



Garnet Hill

After I left there I went to Garnet Hill in

Raleigh where they have small gemmy garnets (almandine) in a road cut. These garnets are a beautiful deep purple color even in their rough and unpolished state. This trip took about 1 hour because of traffic, you have to go through the town of Raleigh and Sat. is shopping day. By this time it was hot and working in the sun, oh well I should have waited but I didn't, when I got there a few people were collecting so I stayed about an hour and left. All in all it was a good day considering I was never at any of these places before. I will know

better the next time I hope.

After collecting in Raleigh I started towards Burnsville, NC to the Little Pine garnet mine. On the way I laid over in Asheville for the night. I arrived in Burnsville on Sunday afternoon. I paid for two days and went collecting about 3 in the afternoon. I stayed over at the mine that night and collected Monday morning. I went to the Public library and cleaned out my e-mail, this is when I was informed that the dig for April 16th and 17th was canceled so I headed for home. I was unable to climb up to the mine and lost out on very large complete crystals a vein in the mine. I did get a fair amount of garnet crystals, some are broken and some are complete. These are also a almandine type.

Thanks for the report, Ed!



Lower part of Little Pine Mine

Field Trip Planned:

Ed has also found a field trip possibility quite a bit closer to home – in Monroeville, OH, which is about 10-15 miles south of Sandusky. There is supposed to be pyrite nodules in slate to be found, and a few of us plan to go find some on **Saturday, June 11th** – and any other club member who would like to come along is welcome to talk to us about arrangements at the meeting or email me. If it turns out to be a good site, and there's sufficient interest, we may try to put together another trip in the fall.

Library Display Window:

The club will be putting together a display for the window of the Presque Isle branch (in the West Erie Plaza) of the Erie County Library for the month of July. The theme will be "**Lapidary – How Do You Cut Rocks, and What Do You Do With Them?**" For the **How** part, we'll probably use mostly pictures and diagrams of lapidary equipment (couldn't fit a slab saw in there even if we wanted to!), with maybe some explanation; for the **What** part, we're asking for loans of lapidary projects, especially if you have some leftover or unfinished parts or some in progress – like a cab and the rest of the slab

that it came from, or polished bookends that have rough outsides, or dopped pre-forms, or any other lapidary projects either finished or in progress.

If you have anything you think might be useful, please bring it to the June meeting, since the window will have to be put together before the July meeting – or call me (Harriet) at 455-4851 and we'll arrange a time to collect things. Also, please label items as to what they are and to whom they belong, to be sure they all get back to the right owners!

Federation News:

The **American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Newsletters** are available on their web site at http://www.amfed.org/afms_news.htm , and the **Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies Newsletters** are available at <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/newsletters.htm> .

This month, in the June 2005 AmFed Newsletter, check out:

- Sample letter to Congressman opposing the NEW Paleontological Resources Preservation Act, Senate Bill S-263. I will be bringing a copy of such a letter to the meeting for club members in the Erie area to sign, but we have club members living outside Pennsylvania's 3rd District – find the contact info for your Congressional district by going to <http://www.house.gov/> and typing in your zip code, then send a letter to your Congressional Representative.
- Safety Rules for Field Trips – especially good to review if you'd like to come along June 11th.
- Descriptions and Photos of new items donated for the 2005 AFMS Endowment Fund Raffle to be held at the National Convention in St. Louis in August. The complete list is available online at <http://www.amfed.org/endow2005.htm> and you don't have to go to the convention to buy tickets for the raffle or to win. The price for a ticket is \$5.00, or you can purchase 5 tickets for \$20.00, and all receipts go directly to benefit the AFMS Endowment Fund. There's actually some pretty spiffy stuff up there!

In the June 2005 EastFed Newsletter, check out:

- Article on the Eastern Field Trip Alliance
- Article describing Wildacres and the special Guest Speaker for the fall session, author and gemologist Fred Ward; also, class listings and descriptions. There are still openings available for the fall session, September 12-18.

You might want to check out the newsletter every month if for no other reason than the monthly safety article; but there's always good stuff, and we can't reproduce it all in the club newsletter. So if you have internet access and a little time (they are large files and take a few minutes to download if you're on dial-up), check them out and bookmark the page to go back to each month. If you don't have internet access, ask at the meeting and you can look at my hardcopy.

Rockhound TV This Month:

PBS: Beads, Baubles, and Jewels. (<http://www.firemountaingems.com/pbs/bbj.asp>) Sponsored by Fire Mountain Gems™ and Beads. "Announcing Beads, Baubles, and Jewels, a new television program for beading enthusiasts! Hosted by leading jewelry-making and beading art suppliers, this program is dedicated to providing inspiration, impart education, and give you, the artisan, an expanded means of creative expression." Saturdays at Noon, at least through June. **Nature: Forces of the Wild Part 1: In the Beginning In The Beginning.** Discover the origins of the solar system, the Earth, and the beginnings of life. June 5, 12:00Mid, 3:00AM. **Great Lodges of the Canadian Rockies** is a passport to high adventure, mountain history, sumptuous dining and a blazing fire at the end of the day. Travel across the border for an enchanting and exhilarating journey through one of the last great wildernesses on the continent. Building upon the success of Great Lodges of the National Parks, the new two-hour series showcases the stunning terrain, breathtaking views and charming lodges of the Canadian Rockies. **Episode One: On Top of the World.** Known as the "castle in the wilderness," the Banff Springs is the elegantly appointed hub of a wheel of lodges and cabins built high in the backcountry, amidst a panorama of canyons, waterfalls and glaciers. Visitors travel by helicopter to remote Mount Assiniboine Lodge, where owner Sepp Renner leads guided walks through breath-taking landscapes. Hikers relax in the lush green valley of the Plain of Six Glaciers Teahouse and travel with expert climbers to Abbott Pass Hut, perched precariously on the spine of the continental divide. June 6, 2:00AM, 5:00AM. **Nature: Forces of the Wild Part 2: Perpetual Motion.** The atmosphere and the oceans are the two great agents of creation and destruction. June 12, 8:00PM. **Nature: Forces of the Wild Part 3: Heavenly Partners.** The Earth's most important neighbors control the seasons and the tides. June 19, check late-night listing for time. **Nature: Forces of the**

Wild Part 4: Living Dangerously. Discover the ways in which humans have harnessed the forces of the wild. June 26, check late-night listing for time.

Discovery Channel: Debunked! - Secrets of the Stone Spheres. In the last century, almost 300 ancient stone spheres were unearthed in Costa Rica's tropical forests. Alexei Vranich and Paul Harmon have teamed up to unravel the mystery of where the balls came from, how they were made and who made them. Jun 8, 8:00PM, 11:00PM. **Raging Planet: Volcano.** Although volcanoes can be deadly, they also create new fertile land for human use and as we get better at predicting them, volcanoes take fewer lives. Experts' prediction of the 1991 Mt. Pinatubo eruption saved countless lives. Jun 26, 9:00AM. **Journey to the Center of the Earth.** No description available. Jun 26, 10:00AM. **Amazing Earth.** From the heights of Mount Everest to the molten lava fields of Hawaii to the very core of the planet, the geologic forces that have changed the planet's face are revealed. It has taken 4.6 billion years for the earth to form, and the changes continue. Jun 26, 12:00PM. **Buildings, Bridges and Tunnels: Tunnels: Digging In.** Even with modern, massive pieces of specially designed machinery, building tunnels is a risky and awe-inspiring feat of engineering. Explore the techniques, danger and design involved in the construction of six marvelous tunnels. Jun 28, 4:00PM. **Excavators.** At the world's largest open pit iron mine, a \$10 million new, custom-built super shovel is commissioned to meet a sudden worldwide surge in the demand for iron. Will miners find success with the fastest, most technologically advanced excavator ever made? Jun 30, 4:00PM.

TLC: Mega Machines: Mega Scoopers. Superbowl champ Tony Siragusa hosts this look at devices that can scoop. Take to the seas as the world's biggest ship lifter attempts to bench a 1.8 billion pound oil rig. On dry land, an enormous excavator extracts 75 tons of earth at a time. Jun 14, 8:00PM, 11:00PM.

Travel Channel: Great National Parks of the World: Lands of Wonder. Meet the mountain gorillas of Uganda, and experience the alpine grandeur, vivid blooms and ibex of Italy's Gran Paradiso. Explore the honeycombed stones of Northern Ireland's Giant Causeway, and witness the tapestry of wildlife in the Serengeti. Jun 2, 2:00PM. **Alaska Wide Open.** Alaska is the largest state in the union, and the most extreme. For centuries, people have braved the elements in search of beauty, isolation and riches. From finding gold to traversing the land via dog sled, Alaska's treasures are revealed. Jun 2, 4:00PM. **The Colorado: River of Wonders.** The Colorado River offers whitewater adventure and ancient mysteries. From the towering peaks of the Rocky Mountains to the majestic Grand Canyon, six National Parks along its banks enchant visitors with their spectacular scenery and wildlife. Jun 2, 5:00PM; Jun 21, 10:00PM, 1:00AM; Jun 25, 3:00PM. **Secrets of Niagara Falls.** Discover the geographical facts on what makes Niagara Falls so unique. Find out how the raging waters are transformed into limitless, electrical power for cities and states throughout the region. Jun 2, 6:00 PM; Jun 7, 10:00 PM, 1:00 AM; Jun 11, 3:00 PM. **World Odysseys: New Zealand.** Plunge into the Ring of Fire in New Zealand, a land of lush green pastures, active volcanoes, and geysers. Drink in the breathtaking views of the Coromandel Peninsula, with its most beautiful beaches accessible only by foot. Jun 3, 9:00AM. **RV Crazy!** Recreational vehicles reflect the unique spirit of adventure that causes otherwise ordinary people to pack up their life and go on the road. From the wacky to the way out, see the most amazing, most amusing RVs and meet the people who call them home. Jun 5, 9:00PM 12:00Mid. **Grand Canyon: Nature's Great Escape.** Head beyond the mule rides and hiking trails to the Grand Canyon's hidden treasures. Meet the team specialized in rescuing "fallers", wander the ghost towns of nearby abandoned gold mines, and find the secret path that leads into a forest of Joshua trees. Jun 5, 10:00PM 1:00AM; Jun 21, 7:00PM, 2:00AM. **Stranded - with Cash Peters: Coober Pedy.** No description available. Jun 6 8:00PM, 10:00PM, 12:00Mid. **Stranded - with Cash Peters: Quartzsite.** No description available. Jun 6, 8:30PM, 10:30PM, 12:30AM. **Engineering Marvels: Underground.** Delve beneath the surface of America into tunnels, tubes, mass transit systems and mines. Discover how these underground marvels are designed, built and maintained -- sometimes at an enormous cost of both money and life. Jun 9, 5:00PM. **Australia Revealed.** The land Down Under is the smallest continent in the world. A land of vast deserts, snowfields and coral reefs, rich in minerals, it is also one of diverse cultures, from the ancient aboriginal to the cosmopolitan immigrants. Jun 12, 11:00AM. **Canadian Rockies: Banff & Jasper.** Snow-capped peaks and glacial lakes provide the setting for two majestic icons of the Canadian Rockies, Banff and Jasper National Parks. Soak in the hot springs, trek the backcountry trails, then shop the boutiques of this rustic resort wilderness. Jun 19, 8:00PM, 11:00PM. **Hidden Yellowstone.** Journey to the untouched heart of Yellowstone National Park, the nation's largest and oldest. Learn how this pristine land and its native inhabitants endure against nature's most ferocious elements -- ice, wind and fire. Jun 21, 6:00PM. **Hidden Yosemite.** To discover the true beauty of Yosemite, trek by llama and mule to remote locations not mentioned in the guidebooks. Discover the secrets to ice climbing, snow camping and snow shoeing, and make reservations for a traditional Christmas dinner. Jun 23, 2:00PM. **Secrets of Zion & Bryce.** In Southwestern Utah, two of America's National Parks are spectacularly different yet equally awe-inspiring. Experience the mysterious labyrinths of twisted rock and the highest sheer cliff walls in North America. Jun 23, 4:00PM. **Secrets of Denali National Park.** Visit Alaska's most famous National Park, Denali, a remote

wilderness of unspoiled beauty. This remarkably diverse terrain is set amid the Alaskan Range. Rising above it all is Mt. McKinley, the tallest mountain in North America. Jun 29, 2:00PM.

History Channel: Alaska: Big America. Alaska--a land of extremes. Its size is staggering--nearly 600,000 square miles, or more than twice the size of Texas. Its vast distances, extreme weather, imposing landscape--all helped shape its history and the lives of those who come under its spell. Our 2-hour special heads to far-flung corners of the 49th State to hear compelling stories of life in the bush--from Russian expeditions in the 1700s to building of the Alcan Highway to the WWII Battle for the Aleutian Islands and 1959 statehood. June 2, 8:00PM, 12:00Mid. **Modern Marvels: Silver Mines.** It was called "the mother lode", a deposit of silver so massive that it would produce \$300-million in its first 25 years of production, establish Nevada as a state, and bankroll the Union army in the Civil War. June 3, 6:00AM. **Modern Marvels: Glue.** It's Super! It's Crazy! And it can be found in everything from carpet to computers, books to boats, shoes to the Space Shuttle. It's even used in surgery! Without it, our material world would simply fall apart. In this episode, we'll visit the stuck-up, tacky world of glue. Glue's sticky trajectory spans human history and we'll cover it all--from Neolithic cave dwellers who used animal glue to decorate ceremonial skulls to modern everyday glues and their uses, including Elmer's glue, 3M's masking and Scotch tape, and the super glues. Remember the Crazy Glue commercial in which a man held himself suspended from a hard hat that had just been glued to a beam? Well, that 1970s vintage ad understates the power of glue. With the help of a crane, we're going to hoist a 6,000-pound pickup truck off the ground by a steel joint that's been bonded with glue! June 11, 4:00 PM.

Area Museum Exhibits:

The Cleveland Museum of Natural History (<http://www.cmnh.org/>) has extended the exhibit **Feathered Dinosaurs: The Bird-Dinosaur Connection** through June 12.

The Carnegie Museum of Natural History (<http://www.carnegiemnh.org/>) in Pittsburgh has added more time-lapse animations of their 30-second webcam frames – you can now also see several clips of the disarticulation of the Apatosaurus (<http://www.carnegiemnh.org/ditw/apatosaurus.htm>) and a few of the Diplodocus (<http://www.carnegiemnh.org/ditw/diplodocus.htm>), with nifty explanations of the history of the specimens and the technical problems involved in moving huge bones. These are really big files, so if you're on dial-up, start them downloading and then go eat dinner or something.

Upcoming Shows in the area:

June 11-12, Cleveland, OH - Intergalactic Bead Shows, Inc. Cuyahoga Fairgrounds, 19000 Bagley Rd., 678-924-0818. Hours 10-5 both days, Admission \$5 Saturday (good both days), \$4 Sunday. www.beadshows.com.

July 9-10, Syracuse, New York: 38th annual show and sale; Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse; Cargill Exposition Center, New York State Fairgrounds, off I-690; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; adults \$5, children under 12 free; more than 55 dealers, 12 wholesale, educational exhibits, kids' activities, door and show prizes; contact Gene Ridall, (315) 656-3692; Web site: www.gmss.us.

July 16-17, Erie, PA - Gem City Rock & Mineral Society. 36th Annual Gem & Mineral Show. Perry Hi-way Hose Co., 8270 Peach St. 16th, 10-6; 17th, 10-5. Bob Gallivan, 814-454-6770, gemcity@treebeard.net, www.treebeard.net/gemcity/show.htm.

July 23-24, Cleveland, OH - Bead Mercantile Shows. 423-639-7919, fax 423-638-5676, dawn@beadmercantile.com, www.beadmercantile.com.

And of course there are many more shows in warmer areas – like Florida and Arizona, though other places as well. So if you are traveling outside our area (and many of us will be), check the Rock and Gem Magazine Calendar (<http://www.rockngem.com/showdates/showdates.shtml>), and the Lapidary Journal Calendar (<http://www.lapidaryjournal.com/cal1.cfm>).

We have been down in the club room most Saturday mornings (which sometimes extend to 2:00-3:00PM), but **check the club web site** at www.treebeard.net/gemcity or call and find out if you would like to join us for any *particular* Saturday. The web site is usually updated with a 'definite' status Friday night or early Saturday morning -- or call me (Harriet) at 455-4851 or Bob Gallivan at 454-6770 to make sure. You can also call to arrange another time for a work session if Saturdays aren't good for you, and someone will try to accommodate you.