



# The PRESQUE ISLE PROSPECTOR



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

## January 2006



### Last Month's Meeting:

Last month we had our Holiday Dinner, and our annual Election of Officers. The slate as nominated by the Nominating Committee was elected, so our new Officers for 2006 are as follows:

President:	Kirk McFadden
Vice-President:	Sarah Boesch
Treasurer:	Val Engelleiter
Secretary:	Harriet Beckman
Board Members (3):	Bob Perry and Mary Thomson
	(Bob Gallivan as Past President is automatically on the board)

So as of February 1<sup>st</sup>, we'll have a new President!

### This Month's Meeting:

This month our meeting will be Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 AM. Note that we have moved the meetings to Saturday mornings for the cold, dark days of winter.

Our program this month will be 'Indoor Fossil Hunting' – Kirk has volunteered to bring in some coal-shale that he collected some time ago, along with some tools to help us split apart the layers to look for fossils of plants and animals. He did this a few years ago, and we found enough in the way of fern and branch fossils, and insects and fish and shark teeth and I forget what-all, that it kept us happily splitting layers and washing and examining for a few hours. Some of the fossils we can expect to find are quite small, and require good light and some magnification to really see, so if you have a magnifying glass or loupe, bring it along. And as last time, Kirk says we can keep anything we find except a complete lizard fossil, which is what he's looking for when he collects the coal-shale; those are worth more than he can afford to donate to the club, though if anyone does find one, he'll make a donation of part of its value to the club for future programming.

### Federation News:

This month's Eastern Federation Newsletter has a more extensive listing of the classes that will be offered in the Wildacres sessions scheduled for 2006 (spring session May 22-28, fall session September 11-17). Check out the whole article at <http://www.amfed.org/efms/newsletters.htm> to see the speakers and classes scheduled for each session. The Safety First article is on "Silver, Gold, and Metalsmithing, Soldering/Brazing, Casting and Electroplating Safety" – some of which the club does down at the workrooms, and some of which you may be interested in trying on your own – there are significant hazards to be aware of, particularly for casting and plating but even for soldering. It never hurts to review safety.

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

## **Rockhound TV This Month:**

**PBS: What Went Right.** After landing in January 2004, Spirit and Opportunity, NASA's Mars Exploration Rovers, continued to operate on the Red Planet throughout 2005, much longer than their designers and builders had initially promised. WHAT WENT RIGHT goes behind the scenes to discover, through the stories of the men and women who made it happen, why one of the most challenging missions of the entire space age succeeded when so many other national endeavors have fallen short. Also: footage of the rovers. Jan. 3, 2:00AM; Jan. 3, 9:00PM.

**Discovery Channel: Extreme Engineering: Monster Beasts.** Board a floating behemoth, the Asian Hercules II floating crane. Get the scoop on an earth-shattering sized shovel and meet the beast, the GE Evolution locomotive. These monster machines patrol the country side, cruise the rivers and reshape the planet. Jan. 4, 8:00PM, 12:00Mid; Jan. 17, 11:00PM; Jan. 28, 12:00Noon. **Extreme Hawaii.** Explore Hawaii's beaches, rain forests, lagoons, volcanoes, exotic flora and migrating whales. Learn about suicidal waves, deadly plants, freezing temperatures, hurricane force winds, and active volcanoes that could wipe out the entire island population. Jan. 8, 9:00AM. **Extreme Engineering: 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? Jan. 24, 11:00PM.

**TLC:** Had trouble with the TLC web site, so couldn't access listings.

**Travel Channel: 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. Jan. 9, 4:00PM. **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. Jan. 9, 5:00PM; Jan. 16, 12:00Noon. **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. Jan. 9, 6:00PM; Jan. 16, 3:00PM, 9:00PM, 12:00Mid; Jan. 22, 3:00PM. **Secrets of Gold.** The glitter of gold defines prized works of art, ornaments of royalty and coinage, as well as tools and devices essential to modern life. Explore fascinating stories and remarkable properties that make gold the most coveted of precious metals. Jan. 11, 3:00PM. **Stranded - with Cash Peters:** Coober Pedy. Visit Coober Pedy in the Australian Outback, where the climate is so harsh that half the town resides underground. After visiting the city's oldest church, meeting Crocodile Harry, and golfing on a grassless course, Cash will see what's really down under. Jan. 15, 4:30PM. **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. Jan. 16, 9:00AM. **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. Jan. 16, 10:00AM; Jan. 28, 2:00PM. **Top Ten Wonders of the West.** Each year, visitors flock to the deserts, coasts and mountains to climb on, hike over and kayak across the wonders that abound in the West. From Yellowstone National Park to Yosemite and beyond, capture the region's most awe-inspiring features. Jan. 16, 4:00PM. **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. Jan. 16, 5:00PM. **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. Jan. 16, 6:00PM. **Earth's Natural Wonders – 1.** Explore the world's most awe-inspiring natural wonders. Second in length to the Nile, the Amazon River is

60 times greater in volume of water. The ocean of sand known as the Sahara is the largest desert, and Angel Falls is the tallest waterfall. Jan. 31, 5:00PM. **Earth's Natural Wonders – 2.** Explore the powerful Niagara Falls and Australia's Great Barrier Reef. Visit the Grand Canyon, the world's finest example of water erosion, and then climb the highest mountain peak, Mt. Everest, which grows higher each year. Jan. 31, 6:00PM. **Top Ten Natural Wonders of the World.** Take an exhilarating look at the world's best natural wonders, including the planet's most recognizable waterfalls, mountains and canyons. Learn how these structures were formed and discover the wildlife that lives around them. Jan. 31, 7:00PM, 2:00AM.

**History Channel: Modern Marvels: The World's Biggest Machines.** Join us for a look at the biggest, heaviest, tallest, longest, meanest machines on the planet! We'll see what these monsters do and how they operate, and how they're designed and assembled. Machines investigated include the largest draglines, excavators used in mining; the biggest dump truck; a front-end loader with an 80-ton bucket and the largest tires of any vehicle; the cruise ship, the *Voyager of the Seas*; a 240-foot tall wind generator; and a fusion reaction machine the size of a football field. Jan. 4, 8:00PM, 12Mid. **Modern Marvels: World's Biggest Machines 4.** From a giant machine press that stamps out an entire car body to a 125-ton chainsaw that cuts through the world's hardest rock; from a huge telescope that glimpses the ends of the known universe to the world's largest rock crusher. Join us for a workout of the world's largest machines, and take a long look through the lens of the world's biggest optical telescope, the Keck Observatory, atop 13,800-foot Mauna Kea in Hawaii. Jan. 4, 9:00PM, 1:00AM. **Modern Marvels: Quarries.** Dynamite explodes hills to bits, drills divide sheer stone walls, 400,000-pound blocks are pulled from pits by giant cranes, and men work around the clock to wrest rock out of the earth. Not diamonds or gold...rock, the raw material of civilization! Without rock, modern society wouldn't exist. Roads, sewers, dams, bridges, buildings, paint, glue, make-up, antacids, and even chewing gum need crushed stone. From ancient days to the present, we explore the evolution of quarrying techniques. Jan. 6, 1:00PM, 7:00PM. **Modern Marvels: Gold Mines.** Around the world and across the eons, gold stands as a symbol of power, wealth, and love. The quest for the yellow metal took men across oceans, into the depths of the Alaskan winter, and miles beneath South African earth. This is the story of the hunters of the precious metal and their methods for extracting it. Jan. 11, 1:00PM, 7:00PM. **Modern Marvels: Metal.** They constitute the very essence of the modern world; the cadence of our progress sounds in the measured ring of the blacksmith's hammer. From soaring skyscrapers and sturdy bridges to jet planes and rockets, metals play a key role. Our journey begins before the Bronze Age and takes us into the shiny future when new metal structures--engineered at a molecular level to be stronger, lighter, and cheaper--shape human progress, as they have since man first thrust copper into a fire and forged a tool. Jan. 11, 9:00PM, 1:00AM. **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 operation, establish Nevada as a state, and bankroll the Union Army in the Civil War. Named after an early investor, we'll see how the Comstock Lode, discovered near Virginia City, proved to be a scientific laboratory from which vast improvements in mining technology and safety were pioneered, including innovations in drilling, ventilation, drainage, and ore processing. Jan. 23, 1:00PM, 7:00PM. **Modern Marvels: Diamond Mines.** Half a mile below the earth's surface, men mine for rough diamonds--a pure carbon substance. Brilliant when cut and polished, they are marketed as the most precious gem in the world. From the earliest mines of the 4th century BC to today's technological wonders in South Africa, we explore the history and technology of the diamond mine. Jan. 24, 1:00PM, 7:00PM. **Save Our History: Gold Rush Ghost Towns.** Join us as we travel back in time to ghost towns in Montana and northern California and bring to life the gold-rush era of the mid to late 19th century and explore how gold was mined, what challenges prospectors faced, and what technology they used to hit pay dirt. Combining archival material, original footage, and demo scenes with host Steve Thomas, we meet gold-rush historians and aficionados, set off an explosion in a gold mine, and walk the streets of lawless towns that boomed fast and went bust even faster--where fortunes were made and killings and robberies were almost daily events. It's a fascinating journey back in time that brings gold-rush ghost town history to life. Jan. 27, 7:00AM.

## **Upcoming Shows in the area:**

Of course, THE place to be from January 27 through February 12 is TUCSON, ARIZONA!! And, of course, most of *us* will NOT be there. And the show season around here – at least within easy day-trip range – is pretty slow until spring. But here are some things to think about if you like to plan ahead, or are desperate enough to drive further:

**Feb. 25-26, Albany, NY - New York State Academy of Mineralogy and the Capital District Mineral Club.** 13th Annual James Campbell Memorial Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show/Sale. New York State Museum, Empire State Plaza, Madison Ave. Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; admission \$5; includes the New York in Bloom Flower Show; contact Mike Hawkins, 518-486-2011, 518-473-7154, [mhawkins@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:mhawkins@mail.nysed.gov).

**Mar. 10-12, Columbus, OH - International Gem & Jewelry Show, Inc.** Veterans Memorial. 301-294-1640, fax 301-294-0034, [info@intergem.net](mailto:info@intergem.net), [www.intergem.com](http://www.intergem.com).

**Mar. 25-26, Sayre, PA - Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club.** 37th Annual Show. Athens Township Volunteer Fire Hall, 150 Herrick Ave. Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$2, students \$1, kids under 8 free; cabochon making, geode cutting, and gemstone faceting demonstrations, fluorescent demonstration by UVBob, kids' mini mine, door prizes, exhibits, outstanding dealers, special exhibit and silent auction from Carnegie Mineral Museum; contact Hazel Remaley, 570-888-7544, [northridge@infoblvd.net](mailto:northridge@infoblvd.net).

**Apr. 1-2, Hamburg, NY - Show, "Fool's Gold — Not the Real Thing; Buffalo Geological Society;** Fairgrounds, Grange/Market Bldgs., S. Park Ave.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, children 12 and under free; educational displays, mini-mine; contact Robert J. Hoffman, 65 Cheekwood Dr., Cheektowaga, NY 14227, (716) 656-8475.

**Apr. 7-9, Berea, OH - GEMSTREET USA.** Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, Fossil, and Bead Show. Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, Bagley Rd. Entrance. 7th, 11-7; 8th, 10-6; 9th, 11-5. Strieter Productions, Inc., Jane Strieter-Smith, 216-521-GEMS, [spi@stratos.net](mailto:spi@stratos.net), [www.gemstreetusa.com](http://www.gemstreetusa.com).

**Apr. 14-16, Cleveland, OH - International Gem & Jewelry Show, Inc.** I-X Center. 301-294-1640, fax 301-294-0034, [info@intergem.net](mailto:info@intergem.net), [www.intergem.com](http://www.intergem.com).

**Apr. 21-23, Ft. Washington, PA - Jewelry Arts Expo.** Held in conjunction with the new Gem and Mineral Market. Ft. Washington Expo Center, 1100 Virginia Dr. 21st, 11-7; 22nd, 10-6; 23rd, 10-5. *Lapidary Journal* and *Step by Step Beads*, 610-232-5700, [lapidary.journal@primedia.com](mailto:lapidary.journal@primedia.com), [www.lapidaryjournal.com](http://www.lapidaryjournal.com).

**Apr. 22-23, Cleveland, OH - Intergalactic Bead & Jewelry Shows.** Cuyahoga Fairgrounds, Arts & Crafts Bldg., 19000 Bagley Rd. 10-5 daily. 888-729-6904, [ibs@beadshows.com](mailto:ibs@beadshows.com), [www.beadshows.com](http://www.beadshows.com).

**Apr. 22-23, Cuyahoga Falls, OH - Show and sale; Summit Lapidary Club,** Akron Mineral Society; Emidio & Sons Expo Center, 48 E. Bath Rd.; Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-6; minerals, rocks, gems, jewelry; contact Warren Salchak, (330) 929-3798, or Carl Miller, (330) 633-4250; Web site: [www.LapidaryClubofOhio.org](http://www.LapidaryClubofOhio.org).

**Apr. 28-30, Pittsburgh, PA - International Gem & Jewelry Show, Inc.** Pittsburgh ExpoMart. 301-294-1640, fax 301-294-0034, [info@intergem.net](mailto:info@intergem.net), [www.intergem.com](http://www.intergem.com).

Of course, there will be more shows this time of year in warmer climates – so if you're planning to travel, be sure to check out the complete online listings at the Rock and Gem Magazine Calendar (<http://www.rockngem.com/showdates/showdates.shtml>), and the Lapidary Journal Calendar (<http://www.lapidaryjournal.com/cal1.cfm>). Note that while 90% or better of these listings are exactly the same, if you only check one, you could miss one in the 10% that *aren't* in both that's just the one you wanted!

We have been down in the club room many Saturday mornings (which sometimes extend to 2:00-3:00PM), but **check the club web site** at [www.treebeard.net/gemcity](http://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.