



The PRESQUE ISLE PROSPECTOR



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

JANUARY 2007



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 2007 are as follows:

President:	Kirk McFadden
Vice-President:	Sarah Boesch
Treasurer:	Val Engelleiter
Secretary:	Harriet Beckman
Board Members (3):	Ted Oslak and Mary Thomson

(Bob Gallivan as Past President is automatically on the board)

This Month's Meeting:

This month our meeting will be Saturday January 6th, at 9:30AM. We will have a video program from the Eastern Federation Library, the video on the Sweet Home Mine, "Rhodochrosite - Red Treasure of the Rockies" – you may remember that this commercially-produced video got rave reviews in Rock & Gem Magazine about a year ago. Also, since I couldn't check the TV listings for December before that newsletter had to go out, I missed a new series on the Travel Channel called Cash and Treasures, Tuesday nights at 10PM, but Ed didn't, so he's recorded a few episodes and said he'd bring something along. It's apparently a show about finding various kinds of "treasure" in various places in the U.S. – there are upcoming shows on Crater of Diamonds Park, Gold Panning in California, opals in Nevada, etc. Maybe now that the holidays are over, I might even be able to watch some TV again!

Also at this meeting, we will be looking again at the Wire-Wrapped Cages that Ed has made, and that he will be showing us how to make next month. We'll need to check out how much wire the club has of various types and how many cages people want to make and put in an order for the required wire. Each cage requires "30 inches of 14kt. gold filled or silver 21-gauge square half hard wire or brass practice wire and 1 small tumble stone approx. 1 inch long" – but if you have something larger (or smaller) the size of cage (and amount of wire needed) can be adjusted, so if you have something specific that you want to put in your cage, bring it along to help judge that, too.



Dues are Due:

Also, now that we've entered a new Calendar Year, club Dues are due! If you joined at the show last July (2006), your dues are paid through the end of 2007; if not, it's time to pay up again for another year. You may recall that we had to raise dues last year (for the first time in 20 years), so dues are now as follows:

\$10.00	Junior (under 18 or full-time student)
\$15.00	Individual
\$20.00	Couple (or parent and one child)
\$25.00	Family

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

President	Kirk McFadden	P.O. Box 128	Waterford PA 16441-0128	(814) 602-5225
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
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Newsletter Editor	Harriet Beckman	email:	gemcity@treebeard.net	(814) 455-4851
Board Members:	Robert Gallivan		Ted Oslak	Mary Thomson

Val and I have had a little trouble keeping up with exactly who has paid what when everyone hands her cash at a meeting, and then figuring out exactly who all is included in a family membership, so we are trying out a new Membership Renewal Form this year. I know you all love filling out forms, but please do fill this one out and bring it along to the meeting with your dues, or mail it in with your dues check – and you can use the new official club mailing address! It is

Gem City Rock & Mineral Society
P.O. Box 475
Erie, PA 16512

Please try to remember to bring your dues along to the meeting, or mail a check to the club. We will give you a month or two to get your dues in, but those not current on their dues will stop getting the newsletter and not be eligible to participate in any club activities! So please help us keep you current by renewing promptly.

Federation News:

The Eastern Federation newsletter (<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/efjan07.pdf>) has an extensive article describing the Wildacres experience, and class listings. The sign-ups for the 2007 Wildacres workshops will open January 1, so now is the time to read up on it and make plans to go. The dates for the Spring session are April 20-26, a bit earlier than usual, and the guest speaker will be Bob Jones, Sr., editor of Rock & Gem Magazine, who just got back from a trip to China. The Fall session will be September 10-16, and the guest speaker will be Dr. Steve Chamberlain, author and director of the Rochester Mineralogical Symposium. And since we will be having a video program this month, I will bring along and try to set up the short video on Wildacres while the equipment is out.

There is also a report on the EFMLS Convention that was just in Palm Beach, FL November 16-19, so by now we have new officers – the newsletter has contact info and photos from the convention. The Safety First article is on Show safety and maintaining the safety / value of your own collection.

The American Federation newsletter had a December-January issue, and is still available online at http://www.amfed.org/news/n2006_12.pdf.

Field Trip Report – Carnegie Gem Show:

Five of us had planned to go down to the Carnegie Gem Show the weekend before Thanksgiving, but Brad and I were sick and couldn't make it. The others went, and Sarah kindly submitted a write-up for those of us who couldn't go:

“On Saturday November 18, Mary, Val and I met at the West Erie Plaza at 8am to go to Pittsburgh. Harriet and Brad were not able to make it due to illness. Half way there we discovered that none of us had brought our cameras, I had to buy one when we got there. The trip down 79 went well until we got to Pittsburgh where we promptly missed our turn and got lost (have I told you how much I hate driving in Pittsburgh?). Anyway, after a few more miss turns we managed to stumble upon the road we wanted. We had to laugh about this or we would have been cursing.

We finally got to the museum and found a parking place in the ramp. We paid our entrance fee and then had a really good time going from one display to another. As I had never been there, I wanted to look at the museum displays also. We went to look at the Tiffany display, and I got yelled at about the camera, which I was carrying and had no intentions of using on the displays (I didn't think any of them were worth it) but I guess the attendant in the room thought I was going to use it. I also wanted to see the dinosaur display but when we got to the wing that they were in it was under renovation and the T-rex had been dismantled and was being sent out for cleaning and repair (talk about being disappointed). I did, however, get to see smaller dinosaurs. Then Val talked about their hall of minerals so we went looking for that. Can you believe it, that hall was also closed for renovation.

After that we went back to the area where the dealers were for the gem and mineral show. There were quite a few dealers but we managed to stop at all of them. Boy, what they had on display, I wished that I had had a few thousand to spend. I saw many beautiful

stones that were huge. We saw a special display of pearls which were under heavy guard and no pictures were allowed.

After looking at all of the dealers, we went and had lunch in the museum's dining room, the food was very good. We then went back to make our purchases. All three of us managed to find something that we couldn't leave without. At 5:00 the museum closed and we headed for home. We pulled out of the museum's parking lot and promptly got lost again (did I tell you how much I hate driving in Pittsburgh?). After a few minutes of wandering around lost, I remembered that fifth street connected with the highways. So we hopped on Fifth Street and we were on our way out of Pittsburgh, boy did we laugh about getting lost. We stopped in Meadville at the Cracker Barrel for supper and rehashed all that we had seen, done and bought. Laughed some more over getting lost and how my language got worse the more we fought with traffic. We arrived back in Erie at the West Erie Plaza about 8 pm. and split up and headed for home with our goodies."

Rockhound TV This Month:

PBS: Naked Planet: Niagara Falls. Examining the geological, social and industrial history of the spectacular waterfall on the Niagara River, which separates Ontario, Canada, from New York state. Included: the falls as a tourist destination. Jan. 7, 12AM; Jan 9, 3:00AM. **Utah: The National Parks.** Landscapes of the state's national parks are spotlighted. Jan. 9, 2:00AM.

Discovery Channel: Listings were down when I went to check.

Travel Channel: Listings down, but "Cash and Treasures is on Tuesdays at 10:00PM.

History Channel: Mega Disasters: Earthquake in the Heartland. Could a killer earthquake strike America's heartland? If history proves true, the answer is yes. The 1811-1812 New Madrid Earthquakes (centered in southeast Missouri) rank as some of North America's most catastrophic natural disasters. Stretching more than 160 miles, a system of earthquake faults lurks beneath the Mississippi River basin, loaded and ready to erupt. And it's happened before. Pioneer residents of New Madrid, Missouri were thrown from their beds in the early hours of December 16, 1811 when an estimated 8-point earthquake hit. But it wasn't just one event. Multiple shocks were experienced over the next three months--the largest caused the Mississippi to flow backwards. No earthquake sequence has lasted so long, produced so many shocks, nor created such astonishing phenomena on land and water. The New Madrid Fault remains a seismically active area and experts expect a repeat. The only question is when... Jan. 13, 9:00AM. **Mega Disasters: Yellowstone Eruption.** The world's largest, most active volcano system exists in the western US. 6,000 years ago, the Yellowstone Volcano erupted. Lava and pyroclastic flows covered 3,000-square miles with ash 3-feet thick. Fossils discovered as far away as Nebraska were found to have died from inhaling the Yellowstone debris. If--or perhaps we should say when--it erupts again, the Yellowstone "Mega-Volcano" will create a global cataclysm beyond human comprehension. Everything within 150 miles--including the cities of Cody, Wyoming and Bozeman, Montana--will be hit by an 800-degree blast of heat and 200 miles-per-hour winds. Thousands will be killed. That's just the local effects. Half the US will be buried beneath a blanket of volcanic ash. Crops in the Midwest--the world's breadbasket--will be destroyed. And it will take years before crops can grow again. Starvation, epidemics, and social chaos won't be long in coming. Jan. 13, 11:00AM. **Mega Disasters: San Francisco Earthquake.** At the dawn of the 20th century, San Francisco was the place to be; a hub of trade and travel, business and banking. Located just to the east of the San Andreas Fault, the bay area is interlaced with eight major earthquake-producing faults. We examine the cataclysmic earthquake that struck on April 18, 1906--it jolted the city for 50 seconds, the earth split for 270 miles, and a resulting firestorm raged for three days. Amazing photographs document the city's destruction and efforts to rebuild. But the rush to get back in business came at a price--the city was rebuilt on the same seismic hazards. Now scientists warn that if it happens again damage and casualties will be much worse. The potential catastrophe unfolds through state-of-the-art graphics with bridges collapsing, high-rise fires, and freeways destroyed. A similar seismic jolt today would lead to a mega-disaster in San Francisco, with billions of dollars in damage and casualties in the tens of thousands. Jan. 13, 6:00PM. **Save Our History: Yellowstone National Park.** Our first and foremost national park, Yellowstone was established in 1872 by Congress. Today, it encompasses 2.2-million acres and draws over 3-million visitors yearly. But it's under constant threat from pollution, urban encroachment, and the same tourists that have made it so valuable. We join ecologists, as well as the National Parks Service, in their search for ways to preserve this vitally important ecosystem, while keeping it available to visitors for years to come. Jan. 26, 7:00AM. **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. 28, 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. 28, 10:00PM, 2:00AM. **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. 28, 11:00PM, 3:00AM. **Modern Marvels: Coal Mines.** Coal--the fuel responsible for more than half the electricity used daily. We unearth the amazing technological advances that have led to today's extremely efficient methods--from ancient techniques to the simplistic bell-pit method, from drift mining, surface mining, and strip mining to modern longwall mining, when a massive machine extracts an entire wall of coal in seconds. We go underground with miners in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Wyoming, and also address environmental concerns. Jan. 30, 12:00PM, 6:00PM.

Upcoming Shows in the area:

Shows are pretty much over for our area until spring, but it's not too early to start dreaming of TUCSON! And to look forward to:

Feb. 23-25, Pittsburgh, PA - International Gem & Jewelry Show. Pittsburgh ExpoMart. 301-294-1640, fax 301-294-0034, info@intergem.com, www.intergem.com.

Mar. 10-11, Liverpool (Syracuse), NY - Innovative Beads Expo. Holiday Inn, 441 Electronics Pkwy. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily. Renu Sawhney, 845-352-9735, info@innovativebeadsexpo.com, www.innovativebeadsexpo.com.

Mar. 10-11, Pittsburgh, PA - The Bead Mercantile Show. Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites of RIDC Park, 180 Gamma Dr. 423-639-7942, www.beadmercantile.com.

March 24-25, Hamburg, NY - "Agates: Nature's Stained Glass Window". Buffalo Geological Society; Grange/Market Bldgs., Erie County Fairgrounds, 5600 McKinley Pkwy.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, children under 12 free; kids' mini-mine, "Grandpa's Corner" with bead crafting, sand art, and more, more than 25 dealers, fossils, minerals, geology, books, equipment, lapidary arts, specialists in wire wrapping, cabochons, gems, jewelry, minerals, lapidary, fossils; contact Steve Birtz, 2230 Fix Rd., Grand Island, NY 14072, (716) 773-6386; e-mail: SBirtz@aol.com; www.bgsny.org.

March 4-25, Sayre, PA - 38th annual show; Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club. Athens Twp. Volunteer Fire Hall, 150 Herrick Ave.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5; cabochon making, geode cutting, and gemstone faceting demonstrations, fluorescent demonstration by UV Bob, kid's mini-mine, door prizes, exhibits, dealers, special exhibit and silent auction from Carnegie Mineral Museum; contact Hazel Remaley, (570) 888-7544; e-mail: northridge@infoblvd.net.

April 13-15, Berea, OH - "GemStreet USA". Strieter Productions Inc.; Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, 164 Eastland Rd. (use Bagley Rd. Entrance); Fri. 11-7, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$6, seniors and students \$4, ticket good all weekend, children under 12 free; rough and finished minerals, high-quality gemstones, mineral specimens, spheres, wands, wire wrapping, 14k and sterling silver jewelry, authentic Native American jewelry, beads, tools, supplies, fossils; contact Jane Strieter Smith, P.O. Box 770580, Lakewood, OH 44107, (216) 521-GEMS; e-mail: spi@stratos.net; Web site: www.gemstreetusa.com.

April 28-29, Cuyahoga Falls, OH - Show and sale, "Gemboree". 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.

Of course, as always, if you're planning to travel, check out the complete online listings at the Lapidary Journal Calendar (<http://www.lapidaryjournal.com/cal1.cfm>), and the Rock and Gem Magazine Calendar (<http://www.rockngem.com/showdates/showdates.shtml>).

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 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.



GEM CITY ROCK & MINERAL SOCIETY

Membership Renewal Form 2007

Name: _____

Address: _____

City & State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

How would you like to receive the newsletter? Email Snail Mail

- Junior (under 18 or full-time student) \$10.00
- Individual \$15.00
- Couple (or parent and one child) \$20.00
- Family \$25.00

Names of additional family members who are members:

Bring completed form with dues to next meeting, or mail to:

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