



The PRESQUE ISLE PROSPECTOR



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



July 2007

Last Month's Meeting:

Last month we did a little show planning, but once again we only had four people so we did not have a quorum, and could do no actual club business. We cannot have that happen again this month!

This Month's Meeting:

This month our meeting will be Saturday July 7th, at 9:30AM. We need to work on show planning, since the show is only two weeks away, but more importantly, **we need to find a new home for the club and move by October 31st!** We have been notified that the building that has been the club's home for many years is being cleared out, and us along with everyone else – and we have to find a new space, *and move all the club stuff*, within four months!

The space we have been in was generously donated (and so was free) – while it would be very nice to find another such space, doing so within a couple of months may not be possible. **And if it is not**, we have some very hard choices to make.

If we rent space somewhere, it will certainly be beyond the means of our current budget, so we will need to come up with additional sources of income. One idea that might raise some funds *and* lessen the amount of stuff to move is to auction off the equipment that the club is not using – all those things in back corners that are incomplete or not quite in working order that someone might be able to take home and *put* in working order – but that would be a one-time event. We also need ideas for more regular income. This could be anything from bake sales to club projects to make items for sale, perhaps on a consignment basis in local shops, and probably lots of other things – but we need to come up with ideas. These things can certainly be done – but they would require manpower, and time and commitment on the part of current membership, and probably a significant push to attract and maintain new members – but we have said for years that we needed to do that.

If we decide we can't afford to rent a new home for the club, we need to decide whether to rent storage space for the club's equipment and other inventory while continuing to seek donated space; but that would require moving everything twice, and when literal tons of equipment and *rocks* are concerned, we'd probably rather avoid that. And it would probably be much harder to maintain active club membership while many club activities must be placed on hold.

So we can look on this as a death warrant for the club, or as an opportunity for growth. The number of members both willing and able to put significant effort into the club – both for the show and for regular meetings and programs – has been dwindling, but we have been coasting along, hoping things would get better. Now is the time to decide how much each of us wants the club to continue, and what effort we are willing to put forth to make it happen.

Please, if at all possible, come to the meeting on July 7th, and bring any ideas for either a new home for the club, or new sources of income, or ways to attract new members, or just to have some input into the club's future.

We also need to discuss some decisions we will need to make about next year's show, providing we think the club will still be around. We may be changing venues, and as it will be the

Club Web Site address:		http://www.treebeard.net/gemcity/index.htm		
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Board Members:	Robert Gallivan		Ted Oslak	Mary Thomson

50th Anniversary of the founding of the Club, we will probably want to make it as special as we can. Since we may have a good deal more space, we can think about expanding display space, and demo space, and activity space – as long as we have people to man them! So start thinking up ideas! If we decide we are collectively committed to the continuation of the club, this could be the boost we need!

Also – to help with the move, if anyone has sturdy containers, like plastic milk crates or 5-gallon buckets, or anything else that can carry rocks and hold up well, please bring them along!

Federation News:

The American Federation newsletter (should be at http://www.amfed.org/news/n2007_07.pdf) and the Eastern Federation newsletter (should be at <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/efjuly07.pdf>) had not been put up on the web sites yet nor the print copies come by press time.

Rockhound TV This Month:

This column is still in DIY mode, so here are the web sites for the various channels to look for yourself what will be on in the coming month:

PBS: This one is tough, since the local stations do the scheduling and WQLN (www.wqln.org) only has the schedule for the next 2 weeks up on the web site. You can go to www.PBS.ORG and get info on what the various series are offering to the local stations, but WQLN may or may not show them, and if they do, it may or may not be in Prime Time (you will have noticed how often Nova is on only at 3 or 4 AM). If you are a member of WQLN, you can get a month's worth of Prime-Time listings in their newsletter.

Discovery Channel: <http://dsc.discovery.com/>

Travel Channel: <http://travel.discovery.com/> Be sure to check out "Cash and Treasures" on Tuesdays at 10:00PM.

History Channel: <http://www.history.com/> .

Upcoming Shows in the area:

July 14-15--Syracuse, NY: 41st annual show, "Treasures of the Earth"; Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse; Verizon Center of Progress Bldg., State Fairgrounds, I-690; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; adults \$6, kids under 12 free; \$1 off coupon on Web site, more than 50 retail and wholesale dealers, rough, minerals, gems, beads, beading supplies, jewelry, lapidary supplies, fossils, exhibits, demonstrations, hourly door prizes, grand prizes, kids' activities; contact Cathy Patterson, (315) 638-8817; Web site: www.gmss.us.

July 21-22--Erie, PA: 38th show; Gem City Rock & Mineral Society; Perry Highway Hose Company, U.S. Rte. 19, 8270 Peach St.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$2, seniors and students \$1, children under 12 free; kids' mini-mine and discovery blocks, 12 dealers; contact Robert Gallivan, 427 Colleen Dr., Erie, PA 16505, (814) 454-6770; e-mail: gallivan@lycos.com.

Sept. 21-23, Berea, OH - GemStreet USA. Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, Fossil, and Bead Show. Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, 164 Eastland Rd. (Bagley Rd. entrance). 21st-22nd, 10-6; 23rd, 11-5. Strieter Productions, Inc., Jane Strieter Smith, 216-521-GEMS, spi@stratos.net, www.gemstreetusa.com.

Sept. 29-30, Akron, OH - Intergalactic Bead & Jewelry Show. Summit County Fairgrounds, Arena Complex, 229 E. Howe Rd. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily. 888-729-6904, ibs@beadshows.com, www.beadshows.com.

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 218-1774 or Bob Gallivan at 454-6770 to make sure.