



# The PRESQUE ISLE PROSPECTOR



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

**November 2007**



## Last Month's Meeting:

Last month we looked at a potential new home for the club at the old Tannery site in Girard. It was – ummm – less than ideal. But a couple of other new possibilities popped up the next week!

## This Month's Meeting – at our New Home!:

This month our meeting will be on Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 9:30AM, at the New Home of the Gem City Rock & Mineral Society, in the **Renaissance Centre building at 1001 State Street in downtown Erie** – across State Street from our old home! We are renting the space of the former restaurant Greg's Place in the basement of the Renaissance Centre building – this is the south-east corner of 10<sup>th</sup> and State Streets, where our old home was on the south-west corner. To find the club rooms, go in the front revolving door of the building on State Street (just south of the nut shop, which is on the corner), and look for a stairway to the basement on the right-hand side of the lobby right before the small hallway containing the elevators. And if you have trouble with stairs, the third of the four elevators does go down to the basement level, so you can come to meetings now if the stairs were keeping you away! At the bottom of the stairs or the elevator, you will see the entrance to our space – a door heading into what looks like, well, a restaurant, with a small mirrored lobby. There is also a parking ramp on the south side of 10<sup>th</sup> Street just east of the Renaissance Centre (toward French Street), and it should be free to park there on Saturdays!

This space is quite large, almost as big as what we've been in, but we're still paying \$150/month rent, which is \$1800/year more money than we're accustomed to -- so we'll still need to see how we can come up with this much more income. In addition, we're paying well below the commercial rate for this space, and we were offered it mostly because it's been empty for a few years – so if someone comes along who wants to put in another restaurant, or use it in some other way for which they're willing to pay the commercial rate, we'll either have to match their offer on the rent (not likely!) or move again. But we have a home for now!

As of this writing, we had one long workday of moving the club's stuff on Saturday October 20th, and expect to do the rest on Saturday October 26<sup>th</sup>, 9:30AM–to–whenever, finishing up on Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup> 1:00PM–to–whenever. If you receive this in time to help, just show up, or call Harriet at 868-8422 or Bob at 454-6770 for more information – or Harriet's cell at 218-1774.

So for the meeting on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, I expect we will be doing a little bit of arranging and setting up, and planning how/when to paint the space (one condition of our getting the offer of it) and what other clean-up will be necessary, and then how we'll set up our space – where everything will go. So come see the new space, give some input, expect the possibility of getting dirty as we clean up and move stuff around.

We will also need to make plans for our annual Holiday Dinner and election of officers (including setting up a nominating committee!) – so check your calendars before you come to the meeting, because we need to start thinking about next year!

## Federation News:

The November Eastern Federation Newsletter (<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/efnov07.pdf>) has reports (and lots of pictures!) on the Convention just last month, including our new officers. There's an

Club Web Site address:	<a href="http://www.treebeard.net/gemcity/index.htm">http://www.treebeard.net/gemcity/index.htm</a>		
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advance heads-up on the 2008 Wildacres sessions, listing the Spring session dates as April 18-24, with the Fall dates and class schedules expected to be available in next month's newsletter. An article on Junior Activities lists several resources available from the National Energy Foundation web site at <http://www.nef1.org> (warning – there's **lots** of cool stuff here to distract you from, say writing a newsletter). The Safety First article is on Lapidary and Faceting Safety – please read it!

The American Federation Newsletter ([http://www.amfed.org/news/n2007\\_11.pdf](http://www.amfed.org/news/n2007_11.pdf)) has two articles on currently pending legislation that will affect access to public lands and our ability to collect on them, asking once more for our involvement in helping our locally elected legislators to see our viewpoint. There is also a letter from our new AFMS President outlining her priorities for the year, including her suggestion that we modify the current proposal to the U.S. Post Office Commemorative Stamp Committee from U.S. Gemstone stamps to Birthstone stamps, thinking this might broaden the appeal. There is also a preliminary description of a proposed "Tri-Federation Rendezvous of collecting, fun and fellowship" scheduled for May 21st to 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008 in Texas Springs, NV: "We will collect at 4 to 6 different sites: pink limb casts, small limb casts and bogwood, snakeskin agate, jasp/agate limb casts, geodes, and more. Our Rendezvous will include daily collecting trips, potluck dinners, daily Happy Hours, evening campfires, map exchange and tailgate displays." Apparently last year's Rendezvous was a big success, so they want to do it again. Sounds great! There is also a list and brief description of several new programs added to the Regional Federation Libraries.

### **Rockhound TV This Month:**

This column is still in DIY mode:

**PBS:** [www.wqln.org](http://www.wqln.org) and [www.PBS.ORG](http://www.PBS.ORG) ;

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

**Travel Channel:** <http://travel.discovery.com/> ;

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

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

**Oct. 27-28, Cuyahoga Falls, OH - Summit Lapidary Club & Akron Mineral Society.** Gemboree: Mineral, Rock, Gem, and Jewelry Show/Sale. 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, [www.lapidaryclubofohio.org](http://www.lapidaryclubofohio.org).

**Oct. 27-28, Rochester, NY - Rochester Lapidary Society & Mineral Section, Rochester Academy of Sciences.** Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show. Monroe County Fairgrounds, Calkins Rd. Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; jewelry, beads, fossils, minerals, children's activities; contact Hollis Heinzerling, 585-343-5304, [hheinzer@rochester.rr.com](mailto:hheinzer@rochester.rr.com), [www.rochesterlapidary.org](http://www.rochesterlapidary.org).

**Nov. 3-4, Pittsburgh, PA - The Bead Mercantile Show.** Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites of RIDC Park, 180 Gamma Dr. 423-639-7942, [www.beadmercantile.com](http://www.beadmercantile.com).

**Nov. 3-4, Rochester, NY - Innovative Beads Expo.** Doubletree Hotel Rochester, 1111 Jefferson Rd. 3rd, 10-5; 4th, 10-4. Renu Sawhney, 845-352-9735, [info@innovativebeadsexpo.com](mailto:info@innovativebeadsexpo.com), [www.innovativebeadsexpo.com](http://www.innovativebeadsexpo.com). (Coupon for \$1.00 off admission available at web site.)

**Nov. 9-11, Buffalo, NY - GemStreet USA.** Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, Fossil, and Bead Show. Fairgrounds at Hamburg, 5600 McKinley Pkwy. 24th-25th, 10-6; 26th, 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).

**Nov. 9-11, Washington County, PA - Fair & Balanced Promotions.** Jewelry, Bead, Mineral, and Gift Show. Washington County Fairgrounds, I-79 northbound exit 40 or southbound exit 41. 9th-10th, 10-6; 11th, 10-5. Franko, 304-825-6845, [frankowrap@juno.com](mailto:frankowrap@juno.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>). I have noticed more and more shows listed only one of these locations – possibly due to "automated listing" software that gave us trouble last year trying to list our show.

**Reminder: We have to move ALL the club's stuff out of our current location by the end of October,** and will need lots of help to get it done! We'll be having "Moving Sessions" instead of Work Sessions on Saturdays this month, and if we're lucky we'll be having "Set-Up Sessions" in November in the new space. Call me (Harriet) at 868-8422 or Bob Gallivan at 454-6770 for more specific information.