



The PRESQUE ISLE PROSPECTOR

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

JANUARY 2008



Last Month's Meeting:

Last month our meeting was our annual Holiday Dinner and Election of Officers. There being no further nominations from the floor, the slate as proposed by the nominating committee was unanimously elected:

President:	Kirk McFadden
Vice-President:	Sarah Boesch
Treasurer:	Val Engelleiter
Secretary:	Harriet Beckman
Board Members (3):	Ted Oslak and Mary Thomson (Bob Gallivan as immediate past president is automatically a board member)

We also announced the club's new home on the Internet (see article below). And now that we have our new web site, we discussed getting cards printed for the club, to give out to those who want more information about us.

This Month's Meeting:

This month our meeting will be Saturday, January 5th, at 9:30AM in (if you will recall) our new home in the **Renaissance Centre building at 1001 State Street in downtown Erie** (southeast corner of 10th and State Streets). 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 E. 10th Street just east of the Renaissance Centre building (toward French Street), and it should be free to park there on Saturdays!

Our program will be a show-and-tell by Val of her newest toy – a digital microscope whose display can be channeled to a TV or computer screen. She sent me a couple of pictures she took that look pretty neat!



rough diamond, ~1mm



hematite in tiger eye (~0.5 mm wide)



dinosaur bone

Club Web Site address:

<http://www.treebeard.net/gemcity/index.htm>

President	Kirk McFadden	10535 Bowmantown Rd.	Cranesville PA 16410-9739	(814) 602-5225
Vice-president	Sarah Boesch	1223 Lake St.	Lake City PA 16423-1808	(814) 774-4234
Secretary	Harriet Beckman	1120 W. 41st St.	Erie PA 16509-1302	(814) 868-8422
Treasurer	Val Engelleiter	132 Moorehead St.	Erie PA 16508-1859	(814) 454-1771
Newsletter Editor	Harriet Beckman	email:	gemcity@treebeard.net	(814) 868-8422
Board Members:	Robert Gallivan		Ted Oslak	Mary Thomson

Just after the regular meeting, we will have a meeting of the Show Committee, which is anyone interested in helping to make our Special 50th Club Anniversary Show to be the bigger, better event we all hope it will be! We have more space at our new venue, and we want to have more displays and activities this year, especially for the kids since our new venue is in the Erie Zoo Complex and we can hope for lots of cross-over traffic. So while we are still mentally in Holiday mode, try to put on your thinking caps and come up with some good displays / activities for kids, and just as important, ways to get a few more people to man them!

We will also need as much publicity as we can get this year, so please also be thinking about where we can advertise without breaking our budget (which has traditionally been – um, nothing).

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 (2007), your dues are paid through the end of 2008; if not, it's time to pay up again for another year. Dues are 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

The Membership Renewal Form worked very well last year in helping your club secretary and treasurer keep track of who paid what for whom, so please do use it again when you mail in your dues or bring it in to the meeting. To remind you, the club address 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.

New Club Web Site (and Email):

The club has a new web site, at www.gemcityrockclub.org -- hurray! Our own domain name! (Even if it is kind of a lot to type.)

With this new domain name, we have the option of granting up to 500 email addresses -- for instance, your editor can now be reached at heb@gemcityrockclub.org, as well as my older email addresses; so if anyone wishes to have an email address on the new domain, please send an email to webmaster@gemcityrockclub.org with the username you'd like (and maybe a second choice). Umm, this will also test out the delivery of mail to that address, so if you don't hear back in a few days, try the old address.

Federation News:

The January Eastern Federation Newsletter (<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/efwebjan08.pdf>) has the first of a three-part series of articles on Club Health – this one focusing on a “club physical” to help determine the current state of your club's well-being (we score well in some areas, could use a bit of work in a few others, of course!). There is another good article on a Junior program based on the United States Dept. of the Interior Geological Survey booklet “Building Stones of our Nation's Capitol” (did you know that the Washington Monument is made of marble from 3 different sources?). There is a revised schedule of classes for the 2008 Wildacres sessions, Spring (April 18-24) and Fall (September 8-14), and a form to submit registrations, which begin January 1st.

The American Federation Newsletter is a December / January issue, and is still available at (http://www.amfed.org/news/n2007_12.pdf).

New Column – Club History:

During the moving process, we discovered several dusty, leather-bound record books – meeting minutes dating back to the Club's humble beginning in the home of one of the founding

members. Throughout 2008, we'll be featuring excerpts and interesting, surprising (and sometimes amusing) facts from these books. The following is the complete first entry:

September 18, 1958

The first meeting of the unnamed Rocks and Minerals Club met in the Lawhead's home on September 18, 1958.

The group decided on the first Friday of each month as their meeting night.

The following officers are to serve until the first of the year.

Acting President – Miss Miriam Kuhns.

Acting Treasurer – Mrs. George Cox.

Auxiliary Acting Secretary – Mrs. Cyril Johnson.

Dues of one dollar a year were decided upon. Twenty dollars were collected.

Mr. Mixer was asked to give some thought about By Laws for the group.

Exchange, swap or sell what ever you have at any of the meetings was the concensus of opinion.

Mrs. George Cox will lead the discussion at the next meeting, which will be held at the Lawhead's home.

*Secretary,
Ruth Johnson*

Fifty years is a long time for any "hobby club" to exist. The fact that the Gem City Rock and Mineral Society has been in continuous operation for so long is a testament to the dedication of its members, past and present. If anyone would like to share their memories, photos, etc., we would be happy to include them in this column.

Show Committee:

We are having a meeting of the Show Committee after the regular meeting, and there are several things we need to finalize as soon as possible, so as to be able to print up flyers to pass out at other area shows this spring.

One is the admission price – we hope to have a bigger & better show this year, but it will involve more costs, too, some of which (tables, etc.) we don't know yet.

Another is the list of activities we want to put on the flyer as enticement – we can always have more than is on the flyer, but not less (if we list it, we'd better be able to deliver it), but we also want to have as many listed as we think we can realistically handle. We've had to cut down on the kid's activities the past couple of years due to reduced manpower, but if we start recruiting now, perhaps we can come up with a few folks willing to man a table for a few hours. (These are, after all, not exactly skilled positions we're talking about!) This ties in to our need to expand our Junior Activities – there are so many good resources available now, it seems a shame to pass them up – and we need to start work on school outreach too.

Also – we have been given the large display window near the Children's area at the main Downtown Library again, this time for June and the first half of July – prime show lead-in time! So we should be thinking about a show theme and / or display theme, to start collecting up display materials now. I'm hoping to have a display of fluorescent minerals, for one thing – I'm building a dual-light box. Anyone have stuff to go in it? And I'd like to use those great hanging crystal models – so anyone who has specimens with good crystal shapes, that would help too. Any other ideas?

Junior Activities:

We have several families with children who have either joined or expressed some interest in joining, but we haven't managed to find someone willing to be a Junior Activities Coordinator. With the resources available at the American Federation web site's Pebble Pups pages (<http://www.amfed.org/kids.htm>), including their Future Rockhounds of America (FRA) Merit Badge

program (<http://www.amfed.org/fra/meritbadge.htm>) (complete with a 100-page guidebook describing 52 activities to choose from), to the kid's links page (http://www.amfed.org/kids_links.htm) with 50+ links to rock, fossil, mineral, geology and general science web sites / activities for kids, to the list of other FRA clubs across the country with contact info to ask other youth coordinators – not to mention the club members who would be very happy to help out with anything you need from club resources or just expertise – the only qualification necessary to become our Youth Activities Coordinator is a few hours a month to shop around and choose a project or activity.

Of course, then our junior members would have to work us into their busy schedules – but I think if we manage to schedule some youth activities, that might be arranged!

Rockhound TV This Month:

This column is still in DIY mode, but I will mention that the new season of *Cash & Treasures* has started on the Travel Channel:

PBS: www.wqln.org and 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:

The shows within driving distance are pretty much over for the rotten-driving season; they'll start up again next spring. Plenty of shows in Florida, Texas and California, though, not to mention TUCSON!

Feb. 23-24, Albany, NY - 15th annual show, "James Campbell Memorial Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show and Sale"; New York State Academy of Mineralogy, Capital District Mineral Club; New York State Museum, 4th floor, Empire State Plaza, Madison Ave.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; admission \$6; contact Mike Hawkins, (518) 486-2011; e-mail: mhawkins@mail.nysed.gov.

March 28-30, Berea (Cleveland), OH - GemStreet USA, Fine Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, Fossil & Bead Shows; Commercial Retail/Wholesale Show - Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, 164 Eastland Rd, Berea OH; Fri. & Sat. 10 AM - 6 PM; Sun. 11 AM - 5 PM. Vendors from around the country will be selling museum quality faceted gemstones, fabulous minerals (rough, finished and unique specimens), 14K and sterling silver jewelry, wire wrapped jewelry, authentic Native American jewelry, beads, findings and beading supplies, fossils. General admission \$6.00, student & seniors \$4.00, children under 12 free with adult. Free parking, doorprizes. Strieter Productions, Inc., Jane Strieter-Smith, PO Box 770680, Lakewood, OH 44107, 216-521-GEMS (4367); spi@stratos.net (Coupon at

March 29-30, Sayre, PA - 39th annual show, Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club; Athens Twp. Volunteer Fire Hall, 211 Herrick Ave.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5; special museum exhibits, kids' mini-mine, geode cutting, club exhibits, dealers, minerals, fossils, jewelry; contact Fran Sick, (570) 928-8313

April 5-6, Hamburg, NY - 40th Annual Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show, Buffalo Geological Society; Erie County Fairgrounds, 5600 McKinley Parkway; Show theme, Jade-Stones of Heaven; Sat. 10-6, Sun 10-5; Admission \$5, children 12 & under free; www.bgsny.org.

Of course, as always, if you're planning to travel (especially to the warmer southern states), 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.

Our Work Sessions on Saturdays will mostly be finding and setting up stuff in the new clubroom, but with the holiday season upon us, many of us will have less time to spend on it this month. Call me (Harriet) at 868-8422 or Bob Gallivan at 454-6770 to find out about any specific Saturday.



GEM CITY ROCK & MINERAL SOCIETY

Membership Renewal Form 2008



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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