



The PRESQUE ISLE PROSPECTOR

Official Publication of the Gem City Rock and Mineral Society
Monthly Meetings, First Saturday at 9:30 AM



February 2008

Last Month's Meeting:

Last month our meeting program was Val showing us her newest toy – a digital microscope whose display we channeled to a TV so we could all see. I kept meaning to look through my stuff for something cool to look at, but never got around to it – luckily, we had a new member, Jacob, who brought lots of neat things to look at! Thanks, Val (and Jacob!), it was pretty interesting!

This Month's Meeting:

This month our meeting will be Saturday, February 2nd, at 9:30AM in the **Renaissance Centre building** at **1001 State Street** in **downtown Erie** (southeast corner of 10th and State Streets). 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 is free to park there on Saturdays!

We have begun setting up the benches and lapidary equipment, so our program will be further work on the setup and a survey of what materials we will need to get stuff up & running.

Just after the regular meeting, we will have another 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 are still coming up with potential displays and activities, prioritizing them until we see how many we can handle – just as important is coming up with 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

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

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 February-March Eastern Federation Newsletter (<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/effeb-mar08.pdf>) has the second of a three-part series of articles on Club Health, this one focusing on "A Fountain of Youth for Clubs" emphasizing the importance of attracting new, and especially younger, members – which we are already working on. The President's Message also suggests that clubs should be working on ways to attract the new wave of retiring Boomers – there's a whole wave of Boomers beginning to retire and looking for new hobbies and ways to spend their newly-free time. The article on current legislation says that the 2007 Paleontological Resources Preservation Act is scheduled to be introduced into the Senate for debate on February 15th, so I will be bringing copies of another protest letter to be sent to our senators for you all to sign.

The February American Federation Newsletter (http://www.amfed.org/news/n2008_02.pdf) has more on the **Tri-Federation Rockhound Rendezvous and Field Trip**, and the complete 2-page flier for the trip is available at http://www.amfed.org/FieldTrip2008-05_TexasSpringsNV.pdf. There is a first article announcing the 2008 AFMS/SCFMS Annual Convention which will be hosted by the Houston Gem and Mineral Society in conjunction with their Annual Show, Friday- Sunday, September 26-28. Federation meetings will start on Wednesday, September 24.

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, faceted gemstones, minerals, 14K & sterling 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

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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