



The PRESQUE ISLE PROSPECTOR



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



July 2008

Last Month's Meeting:

Last month we continued on with show planning and Library Display planning, and scheduled more Discovery Block work sessions.

This Month's Meeting:

This month our meeting will be **Saturday, July 12th**, at 9:30AM – note that this is the **second Saturday** since the first Saturday is the 4th of July Weekend, and many people are out of town or have family coming to town. We will meet in the club room at the **Renaissance Centre building at 1001 State Street** in **downtown Erie** (southeast corner of 10th and State Streets). To find the clubroom, go in the front revolving door of the building on State Street and look for a stairway to the basement on the right-hand side of the lobby right before the small hallway containing the elevators. At the bottom of the stairs or the elevator, you will see the entrance to our space.

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!

Since the meeting is pushed back to the second Saturday, that means it will be just **one week before the Gem Show on July 19th & 20th** – so we will spend the time making any final plans, and trying to find all the stuff we need to take to the show (like the mini-mine stuff, the door prize stuff, the electrical stuff, etc.) and planning who will take what in what vehicles. We will also be signing up for hours to cover the various work stations we need to cover, like the admissions table and the kid's activities – so if you figure you can spend a couple of hours at the show and would be willing to spend one or two sitting at a table, please sign up. We can always fill in with those of us who are at the show open-to-close both days, but we get spread pretty thin sometimes and knowing which hours someone else will take really helps. Of course, even if you can't commit to a time and just show up at the Show, we'd still let you help! ☺

We will also start a sign-up for the Friday Night Pot Luck Dinner – even if you can't help set up on Friday, come to the Pot Luck Dinner at 5:30, and bring a dish to share. The club is providing Ox Roast sandwiches, so salads or veggies or desserts or whatever are welcome, and the sign-up is just so that we can answer when folks ask, "well, what are people already bringing?" and get a good distribution.

The Pebble Pups are on hiatus until the fall.

Gem City Pebble Pups:

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Federation News:

The federation newsletters are on Summer Break, but you can still get the June-July Eastern Federation Newsletter at <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/efjune-july08.pdf> and the June-July American Federation Newsletter at http://www.amfed.org/news/n2008_06.pdf.

Library Window Display:

The Library Window Display is in, and will stay in through the end of July – so go on down and take a look if you have a chance to get downtown to the Blasco Library. At least 9 club members (and possibly more, but I remember 9 offhand) contributed material to the display, and it is much appreciated!

Club Web Site address:	www.gemcityrockclub.org		
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Board Members:	Robert Gallivan	Ted Oslak	Mary Thomson

Fall Club Project:

We have decided that our Fall Club Project will be learning a collection of Basic Jewelry-Making Skills, including using findings and some basic wire-wrapping, which can then be used to make many different projects with a few components. We have done basic wrapped loops, and beaded chains with each bead on a wire with a wrapped loop at each end; with a review of these, and variations that include headpins and eye pins, and basic findings like ear wires or clasps for necklaces and bracelets, cones, dangles, and other findings, you can put together a project out of any focal point(s) that take your fancy at the show -- so be on the lookout for beads, drops, dangles, etc., and we'll figure out how to put it all together; or, look for a design you like, and hunt up what components you need and can be found at the show. We will then put together a club order for the rest of what we'll need -- ordering everything at once generally gets us a better price.



To get ideas, try looking at jewelry catalogs, or check out the Fire Mountain Design Gallery at

<http://www.firemountaingems.com/galleryofdesigns/> -there

are tons of designs to spark your imagination, and all the designs give you a list of components needed to make the design, all of which you can buy right there on the Fire Mountain web site (imagine that!) -- or you could just use the designs as a jumping-off point, and use their list as a guide to the bits and pieces you'll need in addition to the primary design components.



Upcoming Field Trip to Herkimer County

We will need to firm up our plans to go back to Herkimer County, NY while we're all together at the Show, since we usually don't have a meeting in August, so please check your calendars and decide if you can make the commitment or not. We'll have to reserve campgrounds for as many people are going at least by then.

We plan to dig for Herkimer Diamonds, and perhaps also drive up to the Garnet mines we visited before. It is a lovely area, and we had a very good time when we went in 2005. If you'd like to see the write-up of that trip, it is on the club's web site at

<http://www.gemcityrockclub.org/crystalg.htm> . We are thinking of going Labor Day Weekend, since it is a 5- or 6-hour drive each way so a 3-day weekend makes more sense. We will need to firm up plans soon, though, as the campgrounds fill up for the holiday weekends, so think about whether you'd like to go, and whether you have a tent, need space in a tent, or would take up an RV (the campground has spots with hook-ups). Check out the campground we'll probably use at <http://www.crystalgrove.com/> .

Upcoming Shows in the area:

July 12-13, Syracuse, NY – Show, **Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse**; Verizon Center of Progress Bldg., New York State Fairgrounds, Rte. 690; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; gems, jewelry, beads, beading supplies, minerals, fossils, educational exhibits, more than 50 retail and wholesale dealers, demonstrations, kids' activities, family fun; contact Cathy Patterson, (315) 638-8817; Web site: www.gmss.us

July 19-20, Erie, PA - *39th annual show*; **Gem City Rock & Mineral Society**; JMC Ice Arena, 423 W. 38th St.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, seniors \$2, children under 12 free; celebrate the club's 50th anniversary, dealers, children's activities, displays; contact Bob Gallivan, 427 Colleen Dr., Erie, PA 16505, (814) 454-6770; e-mail: webmaster@gemcityrockclub.org; Web site: www.gemcityrockclub.org/show.htm.

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 especially the Rock and Gem Magazine Calendar (<http://www.rockngem.com/showdates/showdates.shtml>).

Our Work Sessions on Saturdays will mostly be finding and setting up stuff in the new clubroom. Check the club web site or call me (Harriet) at 868-8422 or Bob Gallivan at 454-6770 to find out about any specific Saturday.