



The PRESQUE ISLE PROSPECTOR



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

August 2008



Last Month's Meeting:

Last month we continued on with show planning, and WORKED THE SHOW!

This Month's Meeting:

We don't usually have an August meeting, taking the month off – but this year we determined that we really should have a Show wrap-up, since we never seem to get much serious discussion done at our Picnic, and especially since this was our first time in a new venue and there were a few glitches that we want to note along with ideas to deal better with them next year. We also need to have a planning session for the Herkimer trip, for which we need a final head (and tent!) count so we can finalize our reservations. So, this month our meeting will be **Saturday, August 2nd**, at 9:30AM. 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). This will probably not be too long a meeting, but important nonetheless.

Gem City Pebble Pups:

The Pebble Pups are on hiatus until the fall.

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 July 30-31 – so go on down and take a look quick if you haven't seen it, or check out the club's web page at <http://www.gemcityrockclub.org/libwin08.htm> if you can't get there.

Upcoming Field Trip to Herkimer County

We will need to really commit and make plans to go back to Herkimer County, NY at this meeting, 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 next week. They do still have at least 2 primitive tent sites (as opposed to the RV sites with electric & water), which I have semi-reserved until August 5th, but then we need to commit (pre-pay with a credit card).

The details are: Camping at Crystal Grove Campground (<http://www.crystalgrove.com>), for \$25 per campsite per night for 4 people per site. More than 4 people per site requires an extra \$5 per extra person per night charge, and that includes anyone old enough to use the restrooms. Unless we decide differently, we would drive up Friday August 29th, carpooling when possible to save gas money, and leaving whenever we can arrange to. It is a 5-hour, 22-minute drive according to Mapquest, and we usually make it in about 6 to 6-1/2 hours with rest stops & dinner. Last time we got there at about 10PM and set up tents by lantern-light. We'd leave Monday September 1st in the morning (checkout by noon), and see what we want to do on the way home.

We would need to make lists of who has what camping gear (tents, sleeping bags, stoves, coolers, lanterns, etc.) and what we can share and what each person might need to acquire. Also who needs what in rockhounding gear and where to get it.

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We plan to dig for Herkimer Diamonds, at Crystal Grove or at another site, and perhaps also drive up to the Garnet mines we visited before (2 to 2-1/2 hours further into the Adirondacks, <http://garnetminetours.com/>). 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>.

Fall Club Project:

I hope you all got a bit of shopping in at the Show, and so have a few things as a starting point for our Fall Club Project, learning a collection of Basic Jewelry-Making Skills. This will include using findings and some basic wire-wrapping, which can then be used to make many different projects with a few components. We will save most of the discussion of this for the October meeting, at which we will all bring what parts we have and what ideas we have, and figure out what other parts we still need to get and put in a group order for them. So of course, I got an email saying that Fire Mountain is having a **50% Off Finding Sale now**, through 8PM PST on August 1st. If you want to look, check the web site at http://www.firemountaingems.com/shopping.asp?skw=KWCW080726&WT.fmg_linksection=58PXH82M328O&WT.mc_id=CW080726&Sort=1 and remember that they have quantity discounts which means we'll get a better deal on one large order, but the discount isn't usually as much as



50%, so if you really want something that's on sale, get it now. Also remember that the price drops at 15 items, so if you only have 13 in your order, and you can find 2 really cheap items, you might **literally** save more by buying more (but do the math). Also remember that the Club purchased a few very basic findings a couple of years ago, so if you want Sterling Silver headpins or earwires, the club probably already has some and you can buy just the few you need instead of a package.

If you still need 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 Shows in the area:

Nothing within daytrip range for a while, but 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.