



# The PRESQUE ISLE PROSPECTOR



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

September 2008

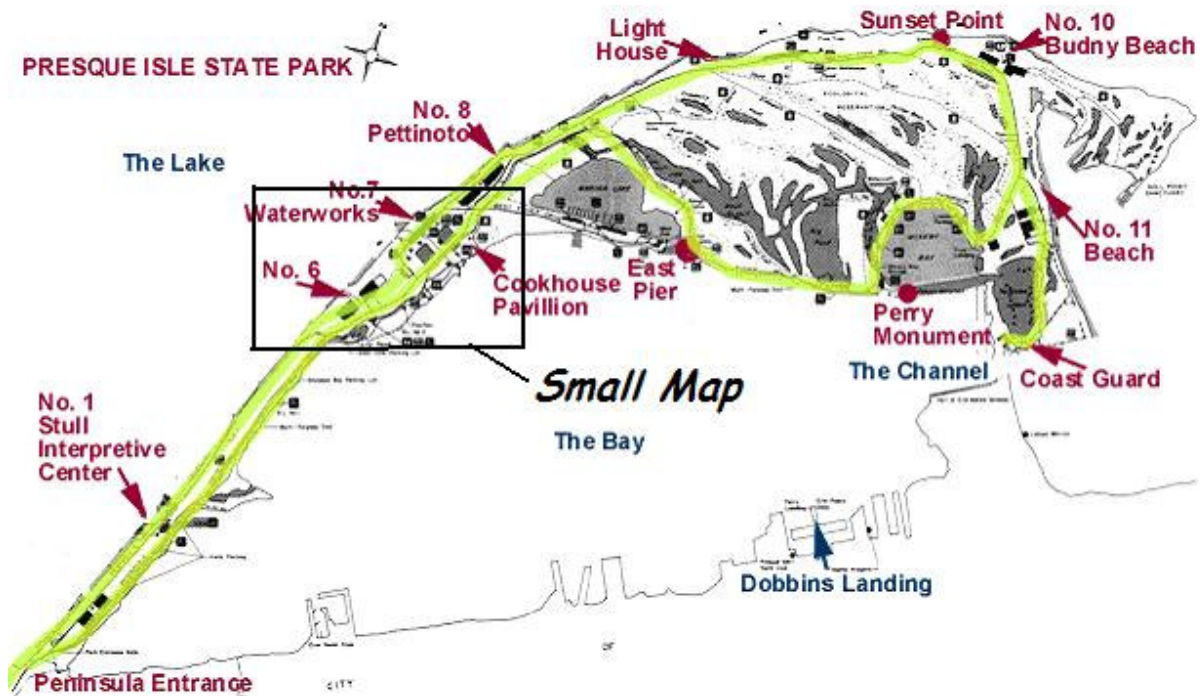


## Last Month's Meeting:

Last month we had a brief meeting to plan the trip to Herkimer for those going, and to review the show, which was **very** successful! Both our admissions numbers and our revenues were up sharply, even with our change in location! We had a few problems settling into our new venue, but we hope we have them worked out or mostly worked out, so we made notes for next year.

## This Month's Meeting:

This month our meeting will be the annual Club Picnic, scheduled this year for Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 PM, at the Niagara Boat Launch picnic area on Presque Isle, where we have been the last few years. Families / Significant Others are welcome to come join the fun. For our out-of-town members not familiar with the area, the easiest way to get there is to take I-90 to Exit 18 and take Route 832 north – Route 832 becomes Peninsula Drive, and goes right on out to the park. See the maps below for directions to the spot where we plan to stake out some tables.



The yellow lines are the main road -- take it past the Park Office and look for the Rock Club sign on the right side of the road. We will stake out some tables, and we'll have a big

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Board Members:	Robert Gallivan	Ted Oslak	Mary Thomson	

sign. If you pass Waterworks, you've gone too far. Since the Sunday after Labor Day is the *first* Sunday in September this year, we will not share the date with the Erie Marathon, but they will be having the *Presque Isle Bicycle Time Trial* that morning from 8-10AM – it should be over before we get there and not interfere with us at all.



We plan to eat around 1:30, and start arriving anytime after 12:00. The club will provide ox roast sandwiches, and you are asked to **bring a side, salad or dessert to share**. As usual, please **call Harriet at 814-868-8422 before September 5<sup>th</sup>** to let me know what you plan to bring so we'll have a good distribution and a head count. Some cooler space may be available to keep cold things cold, but please let me know if you need to take advantage of this.

In addition to your dish, please **bring your own table service and something to drink**. You might also want to bring folding chairs.

We have several new members who joined at the show, and we are eager to meet you all! This will be a good time to get to know one another, and relax and share good food. If you have ANY questions, call me (Harriet) or anyone else listed in the newsletter footer.

In the event of heavy rain (like if Gustav or Hannah decide to take a trip north to us), we will meet in the club room at the **Renaissance Centre building at 1001 State Street in downtown Erie** (southeast corner of 10<sup>th</sup> and State Streets). Call Harriet at 868-8422 or 218-1774 (cell, if calling after ~11:00AM on the day) to be sure.

### **Gem City Pebble Pups:**

The Pebble Pups are on hiatus, but will return in October!

### **Federation News:**

The September Eastern Federation Newsletter is online at <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/efsept08.pdf> and has an article on legislation currently under consideration that would limit access to public lands – not just the Paleo bill, but one that would designate some 500,000 acres in many states as Wilderness area, meaning not only could you not collect there, but *any* access is strictly limited. There is also a safety article reminding us of the special dangers of field trips in the hot weather.

The American Federation Newsletter, at [http://www.amfed.org/news/n2008\\_09.htm](http://www.amfed.org/news/n2008_09.htm), has an article on the AFMS/SCFMS Convention and Show being hosted by the Houston Gem &

Mineral Society this month, September 25-28 – this should be a pretty good time, since the Houston show is usually a pretty big show, and the Texas Facetors' Guild will be displaying a large collection of replicas of world-famous diamonds cut by TFG members. There will be several field trips associated with the convention, including one to the Houston Museum of Natural Science (world class!). You may still have time to get tickets for the AFMS Endowment Fund raffle (see prizes at <http://www.amfed.org/endow2008.htm> ). There is a great report on *Tri-Federation Rockhound Rendezvous and Field Trip*, May 21-26, 2008 – check it out, and see if it sounds like you need to go to the next one! Also another article on the Paleo Resources Act etc., and one on correctly naming the fossils in your collection. There is an announcement of the “Rocks In A Box Challenge” – a Washington club has put together a display box of 18 rocks/minerals/fossils found in their area, complete with identification and location info for each, and would like to trade them for similar collections from other states/areas. Hmmm – Pebble Pups activity?

Do check out your Federation Newsletters – they are free online, and I only point out the stuff of most general interest; you can find out a lot more about the workings of our regional and national federations and what they do for us by checking out the newsletters, even if you only skim some of the articles. Who knows – you might find out it's a lot more interesting than you thought!

### **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 – but if you have questions, bring them to the picnic!



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.



### **Possible Class with Mel Ward:**

Most of you will remember Mel Ward, who has come with his wife (and a vanload of rocks) to our picnic a few times, and who tried to give us a class in assembling a jewelry project involving basic soldering skills. I say tried, since our torches were acting up and most of us had trouble knowing if we weren't doing it right or if the **torch** wasn't doing it right, and there were long backups waiting for a torch, and nobody finished their project.

Well, Mel was as frustrated with that experience as we were, and has offered to try it again, but with a bit more control this time. He has offered to teach a class at *his* place, in his workshop, with his tools, so he knows everything should work properly. He has also said this would be for no more than 4 people at a time (so that there's enough equipment to go around and he can give more individual attention), and be more of a day-long session than a few hours (so we're really likely to finish it!). We would also learn his method of cutting cabs, which is not the standard way – then we can have a choice of whatever method we like.

If anyone is interested (and I know I am!), we should call to arrange a day with him. If more than 4 of us are interested, we might arrange 2 groups on different days. He said they will not be heading south this year until after Thanksgiving, so that gives us some time, but we should probably check our calendars and come up with some possible dates at the picnic, especially as he is doing some shows this fall so we might need a second or third choice of date.

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

The fall show season is ramping up, and there are a few within daytrip range if you want to shop for more components for the Fall Project, or for more stuff to make Christmas presents once you've had some experience putting a couple of things together:

**Sept. 5-7--Toledo, Ohio: 36th annual show; Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club;** Stranahan Theater Complex, 4645 Heatherdowns Blvd.; Fri. 2-8, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$4, students and seniors (55+) \$3, children under 12 free with adult, Scouts and soldiers in uniform free; gems, jewelry, beads, precious metals, fossils, minerals, exhibits, meteorites, artifacts, tools, equipment, demonstrations, mini classes, Touch & Feel display, silent auction, club sales, kids' mineral kits, kids' games; contact Jerri Heer, (419) 531-8124; e-mail: [jheerx6@aol.com](mailto:jheerx6@aol.com) ; Web site: [www.toledogemandrockhoundclub.com](http://www.toledogemandrockhoundclub.com)

**Oct. 11-12--Worthington, Pennsylvania: Show; Kit-Han-Ne Rock & Gem Club;** West Franklin Firehall, corner of Cherry and Linton St.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; six vendors, silent auction, displays, Gem Mine for young and old, Plinko for kids; contact Albert Zabinski, (724) 567-7067; e-mail: [zabinski@facetersco-op.com](mailto:zabinski@facetersco-op.com) ; Web site: [www.facetersco-op.com/zabinski/gemshow.htm](http://www.facetersco-op.com/zabinski/gemshow.htm) .

**Oct. 25-26--Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio: Show, "Gemboree";** Summit Lapidary Club, Akron Mineral Society; 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; Web site: [www.LapidaryClubofOhio.org](http://www.LapidaryClubofOhio.org) .

**Oct. 26 -- Columbus, OH: Ayla's Wonderful World of Beads.** Bead Bazaar, Fawcett Hotel and Conference Center, 2400 Olentangy River Rd. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Price of admission is \$3.00. Receive \$1.00 off with Admission Coupon. [www.awwbshow.com](http://www.awwbshow.com).

**Nov. 14-16--Hamburg, New York: Show and sale, "Gemstreet USA";** Strieter Productions Inc.; Erie County Fairgrounds, 5600 McKinley Pkwy.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$7 (three days), seniors and students \$5 (three days), children under 12 free; minerals, fossils, hourly door prizes; contact Jane Strieter Smith, P.O. Box 770680, Lakewood, OH 44107, (216) 521-4367; e-mail: [janestrietersmith@ohiocoxmail.com](mailto:janestrietersmith@ohiocoxmail.com) ; Web site: [www.gemstreetusa.com](http://www.gemstreetusa.com) .

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.