



# 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

**December 2008**



## Last Month's Meeting:

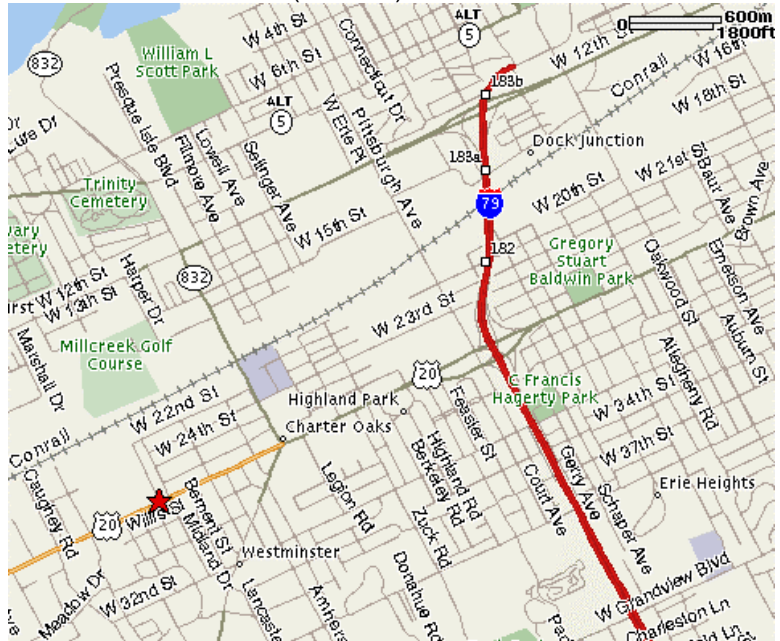
Last month we didn't have a quorum, so there was no real meeting, but we divvied up the parts we all ordered for the Fall projects.

## This Month's Meeting – Holiday Dinner and Annual Election of Officers:

This month our meeting will be our annual Holiday Dinner and Election of Officers on **Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00PM** at **Hoss's Steak and Sea House**, 3302 W. 26<sup>th</sup> Street (Rt. 20) – which is about 4 blocks west of Peninsula Drive / Sterrettania Road (Rt. 832).

When you get inside, don't order in line, just ask to be directed to the Gem City Rock Club party -- we'll order at the table. Families and / or S.O.s are welcome, since we pay individually; just please call Harriet (868-8422) with a headcount by Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> so I can tell them how many to set up for. Just so you aren't surprised by it, they will automatically add an 18% gratuity to our checks.

This is also our annual Election of Officers meeting. While other nominations may be made at the meeting, the slate of proposed officers as presented by the nominating committee is as follows (these names may look familiar ☺):



- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| President:         | Kirk McFadden   |
| Vice-President:    | Sarah Boesch  |
| Treasurer:         | Val Engelleiter   |
| Secretary:         | Harriet Beckman   |
| Board Members (3): | Ted Oslak and Mary Thomson (Bob Gallivan as Past President is automatically on the board) |

## Gem City Pebble Pups:

I'm sorry to say that we are looking for a new Junior Activities Coordinator for the Pebble Pups. Melanie feels she just lives too far away – twice now she's had transportation troubles at the last minute, and she can't just hop a bus or catch a ride from someone else all the way from Cambridge Springs. The duties of the Coordinator do not require any extensive knowledge or expertise, since there is quite a bit of material available for programs, and several other club members to help with anything you can't figure out yourself. Check out the info available on the American Federation website's Kids Corner at <http://www.amfed.org/kids.htm>, and especially the Future Rockhounds of

Club Web Site address:	<a href="http://www.gemcityrockclub.org">www.gemcityrockclub.org</a>		
President	Kirk McFadden	10535 Bowmanstown Rd.	Cranesville PA 16410-9739 (814) 802-5225
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:	<a href="mailto:editor@gemcityrockclub.org">editor@gemcityrockclub.org</a> (814) 868-8422
Board Members:	Robert Gallivan	Ted Oslak	Mary Thomson

America Merit Badge program, <http://www.amfed.org/fra/meritbadge.htm> -- and there are several books the club has with earth science-related activities for students of various ages. All you'd really need to be able to provide is a few hours of prep time each month, and being able to make the meetings. Any parent of interested young people, please think about it, and we'll discuss it at the meeting after elections.

### **Federation News:**

The December-January American Federation Newsletter, online at [http://www.amfed.org/news/n2008\\_12.pdf](http://www.amfed.org/news/n2008_12.pdf), announces Rock & Gem Magazine as the official magazine of the AFMS. It is the last real rockhound magazine left, and has been developing a more symbiotic relationship with the AFMS for some time now. The Junior Activities column describes the activities that the Houston Gem and Mineral Society offers at its annual Gem & Mineral Show, including an Earth Science Scavenger Hunt on Friday of their show designed for official school field trips, and a Scout Geology Merit Badge program on Saturday (their show is in September, during the school year). While their club is much bigger than ours, and the show is much bigger, and during the school year, we might want to snag a few ideas from them – they have a good amount of info on their web site at <http://www.hgms.org/>. There is also an article on the next Inter-regional Rockhound Rendezvous, schedule for May 20-25, 2009 (Memorial Day Weekend) to Davis Creek/Lassen Creek, CA for OBSIDIAN!!! Davis Creek/Lassen Creek is in the extreme northeastern corner of California on Highway 395, between Alturas, CA, and Lakeview, OR. Start planning now! The Safety Article is from workshop safety chapter of the AFMS Handbook.

The Eastern Federation Newsletter is not online yet, but should be shortly – check at <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/newsletters.htm>. There is a reminder that the spring Wildacres spring session is Friday, April 17 – Thursday, April 23, but the class schedule and dates for the Fall session should be in the January newsletter. There was also a letter included with the print copy of the newsletter to the effect that the EFMLS has had to change insurance carriers in order to maintain coverage at a reasonable cost, and that the new policy will have a \$1000 deductible on some types of claims – let's hope this does not affect us at all!

### **Fall Club Project:**

We still have a few "kits" of earring parts available, and I will bring them along to the dinner at Hoss's. I will be showing Jake how to make the earrings, since he had to miss the meeting, but since it only takes about 5-10 minutes to make up a pair, that shouldn't be a problem even at the restaurant. Anyone else interested can watch, too. Depending on which variations you choose, these will cost **between \$2.75 and \$3.25 per pair to make.**



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

There are no Gem/Mineral shows within daytrip range until spring, but here are a couple to think about:

**April 4-5--Canton, OH: Show, "A 'Flintastic' Weekend";** Stark County Gem & Mineral Club; Stark County Fairgrounds, 305 Wertz Ave N.W.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-6; collectors' displays, dealers, minerals, gems, fossils, finished jewelry, lapidary arts, supplies, mineral identification, children's games, silent auction, door prizes; contact Dave Behringer, 2930 Mason St. SW, Massillon, OH 44646, (330) 830-1578; e-mail: [darojreg@att.net](mailto:darojreg@att.net)

**May 2-3--Washington, PA: Show, "Greater Pittsburgh Area Gem, Mineral, Bead & Jewelry Show";** F.M. Fossils; Washington County Fairgrounds, 2151 N. Main St.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$4, children 12 and under free with parent; select dealers, loose gems, minerals, fossils, finished jewelry, beads, bench jeweler, wire-wrapper; contact F.M. Minerals, P.O. Box 252, Farmington, WV 26571, (304) 825-6845; e-mail: [frankoz@juno.com](mailto:frankoz@juno.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.