



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

January 2009



Last Month's Meeting:

Last month our meeting was our annual Holiday Dinner and Election of Officers. There being no further nominations from the floor, the slate as proposed by the nominating committee was unanimously elected:

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| President: | Kirk McFadden |
| Vice-President: | Sarah Boesch |
| Treasurer: | Val Engelleiter |
| Secretary: | Harriet Beckman |
| Board Members (3): | Ted Oslak and Mary Thomson |
| | (Bob Gallivan as immediate past president is automatically a board member) |

This Month's Meeting:

This month our meeting will be next Saturday, **January 10th**, at **9:30 AM**, at 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 club rooms, 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. If you can't take the stairs, the third elevator goes down to the basement level. 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!

Our program will be a Chain Maille Jewelry project that Sarah won a ribbon for at the Albion Fair last fall, and when she brought it in to show us, several people showed interesting learning how to make it. It uses 3 different colors of anodized aluminum rings, so it's very colorful!

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:

www.gemcityrockclub.org

| | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------|---|----------------|
| President | Kirk McFadden | 10535 Bowmantown 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: editor@gemcityrockclub.org | (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.

Gem City Pebble Pups:

We are looking for a new coordinator for the Pebble Pups. 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 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. We have several families with children now, but we haven't had more than 4 kids at a time yet; so if you think you can't lead a large group, that probably won't be a problem. Please consider helping out.

Federation News:

The December-January American Federation Newsletter is still online at http://www.amfed.org/news/n2008_12.pdf,

The January Eastern Federation Newsletter is online at <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/efjan09.pdf>. There is an expanded description of the Wildacres Spring (April 17 – 23) and Fall (September 7-13) sessions, including the class schedules. There was a notice that due to change insurance carriers and in order to get the same rates, all covered activities need to be officially noted in the newsletter, either (preferably) beforehand, or if it came up too fast to be included beforehand, then reported on in the next newsletter. Also, e-copies of all club newsletters need to be included in a new EFMLS newsletter repository for reference.

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! But start thinking Spring:

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

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

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.



GEM CITY ROCK & MINERAL SOCIETY

Membership Renewal Form 2009



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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Erie, PA 16512