



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

February 2009



Last Month's Meeting:

Last month we again had atrocious weather, and only 3 of us got there – so we had no meeting. Sigh. We'll try again this month.

This Month's Meeting:

This month our meeting will be Saturday, **February 7th**, 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.

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 the same Japanese Cross Chain Maille Jewelry project that we tried to do last month, the one Sarah won a ribbon for at the Albion Fair last fall. See more on this below.

Dues are Due:

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 2009; 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

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!

Program - Chain /maille Jewelry:

Our program this month is a pair of earrings in the Japanese Cross Chain Maille pattern. Sarah won a ribbon at the Albion Fair last fall for these earrings and a matching necklace that she made taking the basic pattern and connected several iterations together. It uses 3 different colors of anodized aluminum rings, so it's quite easy to keep track of what rings are going where (not to

Club Web Site address:

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	

mention very colorful!). Sarah has quite a stock of the rings in various colors now, and has made these earrings in several color variations for different seasons.

Bring a few dollars for the rings, and your jewelry pliers if you have them (the club has a few sets if you don't have your own, but it's always easier to use your own), and masking or electrical tape to cushion the tips, since the anodized color coating is thin and can be scratched off by rough pliers.

There are hundreds of patterns used to make Chain Maille, and many of them make lovely jewelry and chains as well – there are quite a few web sites with tutorials showing how to make various patterns, and several also sell the rings. Check out:

<http://theringlord.com/> - tutorials, rings, tools, finished products

<http://urbanmaille.com/> - rings, tools, kits with instructions

<http://cgmaille.com/> - tutorials, gallery

<http://www.mailleartisans.org/> - Maille Artisans International League, e-discussion-lists, gallery



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 the club has several books 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 American Federation has been slow to get the 2009 Newsletter page up, but keep checking at http://www.amfed.org/afms_news.htm. When it gets up, there are articles on the legislation expected to be put forward in the new congressional session (the dread Omnibus Land Act, containing the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act and more than 150 other land and resource related bills limiting access to lands), lists of new programs in the Federation Libraries, a call for ideas for further Inter-Regional Rockhound Rendezvous, and on using Federation Directories – both print and online – to help in vacation planning. There is also an extensive article on “What the AFMS Does for You” if you've even wondered.

The February Eastern Federation Newsletter is online at <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/effeb09.pdf>. The speaker for the Wildacres Spring session (April 17 – 23) will be Mike Wise, a research mineralogist and curator with the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution. He is one of the world's leading authorities on the mineralogy of pegmatites, a Consulting Editor for Rocks & Minerals Magazine and an Adjunct Professor at the University of New Orleans. The Fall session (September 7-13) will feature Dr. Brenda Foreman, whose major interest is the history of jewelry. Brenda is a fantastic speaker who has given numerous talks at the Hillwood Museum, the San Antonio Museum of Art, and the National Association of Jewelry Appraisers. Her talks at Wildacres will highlight various periods of jewelry. The Safety article is a list of Rockhound/Lapidary New Year's Resolutions, listing all the things we should check annually (at the very least) in our rockhounding and lapidary equipment.

Museum Exhibits of interest:

At the Carnegie Museum of Natural History:

Time Machines: Watches from the H.J. Heinz Collection
Extended through February 2009
Wertz Gallery, Hillman Hall of Minerals and Gems

Pittsburgh ketchup and sauce magnate H.J. Heinz (1844-1919) amassed an extensive collection of timepieces during his lifetime. These chronometers offer an array of incredible artistry and amazing mechanical ingenuity.

Through this collection, it is possible to study the evolution of watches as machines, tracing the steps in development from portable sundial to more modern sophisticated mechanical watches. Examples include a gold mechanical "repeating watch" with figures that strike the hour; a watch owned by Lord Nelson, the hero of the Battle of Trafalgar; and a music box watch with a feathered singing bird.

The Heinz Collection is regarded as one of the most important timepiece collections in the United States. H.J. Heinz donated the collection to Carnegie Museum of Natural History in 1917.



Upcoming Shows in the area:

Plenty of shows in Florida, Texas and California, though, not to mention TUCSON! But the shows within driving distance are pretty much over for the rotten-driving season; they'll start up again next spring.

March 28-29--Sayre, PA: 40th annual show; Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club; Athens Twp. Vol. Fire Hall, 211 Herrick Ave.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, students \$1, children under 8 free; Carnegie Museum exhibits, mineral auctions, kids' mini mine, fluorescent presentation, lapidary demonstrations, dealers, minerals, fossils, jewelry; contact Hazel Remaley, 3298 Centerville Rd., Gillett, PA 16925, (570) 888-7544; e-mail: northridge5@verizon.net; Web site: www.che-hanna.org

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 .

April 18-19--Pittsburgh, PA: Show; Monongahela Rockhounds; West Mifflin Volunteer Fire Co. #4, Skyview Hall, 640 Noble Dr.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; free admission; contact Bret Howard, P.O. Box 18063, Pittsburgh, PA 15236, (724) 327-8618; e-mail: mononhahelarockhounds@yahoo.com ; Web site: www.monongahelarockhounds.org .

April 25-26--Cuyahoga Falls, OH: Show and sale, "Gemboree"; Summit Lapidary Club, Akron Mineral Society; Emidio & Sons Expo Center, 48 E. Bath Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-6; minerals, rocks, gems, jewelry; contact Warren Salchak, (330) 929-3798, or Carl Miller, (330) 633-4250; Web site: www.LapidaryClubofOhio.org .

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 .

May 16-17--Berea (Cleveland), OH: 41st annual show and Midwest Federation Convention, "Beautiful World of Rocks and Gems"; Parma Lapidary Club; Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, 164 Eastland Rd., enter from Bagley Rd. entrance; Sat. 10-7, Sun. 11-5; adults \$6 (ticket good for both days), children 12 and under free with adult; gems, minerals, fossils handcrafted jewelry, lapidary demonstrations, educational exhibits, silent auction, raffles, door prizes, Kiddie Korner, Treasure Dig; contact John Zaborowski, 926 Lake Breeze Rd., Sheffield Lake, OH 44054, (440) 949-8242; e-mail: J751@centurytel.net

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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