



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

March 2009



Last Month's Meeting:

Last month we had much better weather, and much better attendance. Quite a few people made earrings, and we even had a couple of new people show up to check out the club – welcome!

This Month's Meeting:

This month our meeting will be Saturday, **March 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 just 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 a demonstration of the club's lapidary equipment, now that most of it is set up in our new home. Bob Gallivan will demonstrate "the art and craft of turning your rocks into gems!" Since it's been a year and a half since we moved, we have quite a few new members who haven't been able to see the equipment up and running, and more of us might like to get a refresher. Maybe then we will have more people interested in going down for work sessions on non-meeting weekends!

Dues are Due:

Now that we've entered a new Calendar Year, club Dues are due! If you joined at the show last July (2008), 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

Please try to remember to bring your dues and Membership Renewal Form along to the meeting, or mail a check to the club. To remind you, the club address is

Gem City Rock & Mineral Society
P.O. Box 475
Erie, PA 16512

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!

Gem City Pebble Pups:

We are still looking for a new coordinator for the Pebble Pups, so the Pebble Pups will be on hiatus until we find one. The duties of the Coordinator do not require any extensive knowledge or expertise, only a few hours a month for planning, and leading the meeting. Check out the info

Club Web Site address:	www.gemcityrockclub.org		
President	Kirk McFadden	2976 Clark Rd.	Erie PA 16510-4422 (814) 602-5225
Vice-president	Sarah Boesch	1223 Lake St.	Lake City PA 16423-1808 (814) 774-4234
Secretary	Harriet Beckman	1120 W. 41 st 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

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>.

Gem Show:

It's time to start planning for the 2009 Gem Show, and for the Library Display that will help us gain exposure for it. The first meeting of the Show Committee will be after the regular Club meeting March 7th. Anyone interested in helping us plan is welcome to come; we need to come up with a theme for the show and display, and start working on publicity and preparation for discovery blocks and activities – and maybe even some displays! As we know from last year, we have lots more room in our new location – anyone interested in putting together a display of any aspect of our hobby would sure have space to put it!

Federation News:

The March American Federation Newsletter at http://www.amfed.org/news/n2009_03.pdf has an article on some of the activities planned for the Northwest Federation Convention hosted this year by the Billings Gem and Mineral Club, Billings, Montana, July 30-31 and August 1-2, so if you're thinking about a summer vacation, think about the cool things you could do / see / collect in Big Sky Country! They'll have a Moon Rock on loan from the Smithsonian, and displays of Montana sapphires / rubies / gold / agates etc., not to mention the proximity to Yellowstone & Glacier National Parks.

The March Eastern Federation Newsletter, online at <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/efmar09.pdf>, has a notice that the Wildacres video that was prepared a few years ago is now available for viewing on YouTube at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kac0qhJG0OM&feature=channel_page -- so if you've thought about going, check it out. There's a hint that many of us use the cold, non-collecting months to do armchair collecting, and research on things we've recently acquired or places we'd like to collect come better weather – and if it's something you thought interesting, probably the rest of the club would too, so it'd make a great newsletter article! It wouldn't have to be very long, or scholarly, or really even a polished piece of writing – the polishing is what an editor is for! Think about contributing.

Field Trips:

Last month we talked about putting together a carload to go see a special exhibit, **The Nature of Diamonds**, at the **Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada**. Until June 1, 2009, U.S. citizens driving across the border don't need a passport, but they need ID to prove citizenship and photo ID. Those over the age of 18 need something like a photo driver's license and an official (raised seal) birth certificate, or a passport. Those under 19 need just the birth certificate. If you don't have a birth certificate with a raised seal, it's probably too late to send away for one before the exhibit ends. If you want to go to the exhibit, **please check now** to be sure you have valid documentation so you will know whether you can go before we try to pick a date at the meeting.

The Nature of Diamonds - Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada - Until March 22, 2009

Explore the blockbuster exhibition *The Nature of Diamonds* at the Royal Ontario Museum. This show has dazzled audiences from New York to Tokyo, and now it's Toronto's turn to fall under the spell of these precious jewels. Highlights include:

Gem Vault - The spectacular walk-in *Gem Vault* houses some of the exhibition's most dazzling objects, including the *Incomparable*, the third largest cut diamond in the world. Also featured is a corsage ornament which once belonged to Princess Mathilde, niece of Napoleon Bonaparte, comprised of over 2,600 diamonds. The magnificent Oppenheimer Diamond is also on display, weighing an incredible 254 carats.

The Historical Galleries - *The Historical Galleries* section illuminates the fascinating cultural and historical significance of diamonds. This section presents a historical panorama of diamond legend and lore, as well as the diamond's role in adornment. Ancient and medieval jewellery, manuscripts, and artifacts demonstrate



**The Incomparable
Diamond**
407.48 carats

how diamonds moved from India to the west.

The Mining Tunnel - This authentic recreation of a Kimberlite mine tunnel gives visitors a sense of the conditions miners face around the world.

Canadian Mining Video - The video *Crystal Clear: Diamonds from Canada's North* highlights the stories of three people in the Canadian diamond industry- Charles Fipke, who discovered the Ekati mine, Eira Thomas who discovered the Diavik mine and James Gowan, CEO of De Beers Canada, which is opening the Snap Lake and Victor mines.

The Nature of Diamonds is part of **A Season of Gems** at the ROM.

We also talked about carpooling to the **Parma Lapidary Club** show in **Berea** (Cleveland-area) **Ohio, May 16&17**, since this year they are hosting the **Midwest Federation Convention**. We'll plan this later, but mark your calendars now!

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>).

We will have Work Sessions on some Saturdays, depending on interest. 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, or to let us know you're interested.



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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