



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 2009



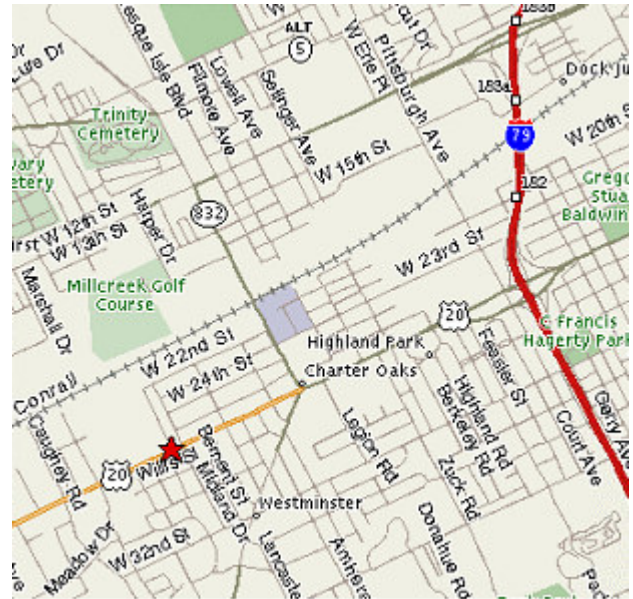
Last Month's Meeting:

Last month we started discussing possible field trips for next summer, and several people really did their homework! There will be more on the sites we discussed in the newsletter after the holidays. We also worked a bit more on our Pendants.

This Month's Meeting:

This month our meeting will be our annual Holiday Dinner and Election of Officers on **Sunday, December 13th, at 1:00PM at Hoss's Steak and Sea House, 3302 W. 26th 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 9th 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. BTW, many places that give premiums for buying Gift Cards (like Giant Eagle) carry cards for Hoss's.



We voted to re-institute our Gift Exchange -- not mandatory, but if you want to participate, bring a wrapped gift valued \$5-\$7 that would be of interest to someone in the hobby (jewelry tools or parts, mineral specimen, fossils, etc.). If it is intended specifically for one gender, mark it as such. Then we'll draw numbers to distribute!

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)

Fall Club Project:

We have the jump rings to finish them now (SS are 15¢ each, GF are 44¢ each); and while using the half-hard wire is certainly possible, it is a little more challenging, so if you're really having trouble, I did score some 24-gauge round sterling dead-soft wire at one of last month's gem shows (though a small quantity, and of course not nearly as good a price) and would sell you some (\$3.00 for 4 feet) if you want to try that for your first pendant before going back to the half-hard. Also, a few years ago the club bought a case of small gift boxes for just such projects as this – so if you want a nice gift box to wrap up your pendants, they are available for 40¢ each.

Club Web Site address:	www.gemcityrockclub.org			
President	Kirk McFadden	2978 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	

We also "rounded up" quite a bit on the wire order, so if you didn't order any or decide it was easier than you thought and you'd like to make more, we have extra wire, and chips, too. I'll have a box of stuff with me at the Dinner.

Federation News:

The American Federation Newsletter, online at http://www.amfed.org/news/n2009_12.pdf, has an article listing quite a few new land bills that our current political climate is making more likely, that would create huge new wilderness area in at least 5 states, and remember that once an area is designated as wilderness, you can't do much more than walk across it if you have good feet – no roads, no off-road vehicles, no collecting. There's also a bill that would put virtually every lake, pond, stream, and seasonal mudhole under EPA jurisdiction, whether on public or private property – don't try to change any drainage without approval! If ever there was a time when we need to be *sure* we have let our representatives know what *we* want them to do, it is now.

The Safety article is on the various hazards we may run into in the shop, and what equipment we should have on hand. Most of us know about safety glasses, but what about the situations where you really need full goggles? Sometimes a dust mask is enough, but sometimes you really need a respirator – if you want to keep on *using* those lungs for a few more decades! And if you find yourself wondering if maybe you should be using hearing protection, that is answer enough.

The Eastern Federation Newsletter, online at <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/efdec09web.pdf>, has an online error that prevents download, but I'm sure they'll fix it. My print copy hasn't arrived yet.

Rock & Gem Magazine Renewal Fraud:

Just to let you know, **Rock & Gem Magazine** has been having trouble with fraudulent Renewal notices being sent to subscribers; the following is on the bottom of their home page at <http://www.rockngem.com/index.asp> :

“Subscriber Alert

You may be contacted by unauthorized subscription agents asking you to renew your subscription. These companies are not authorized to represent *Rock & Gem*, nor are they affiliated with us in any way. Please do not give out any personal, payment, or credit card information to these companies. *Rock & Gem* will not accept orders from these companies; if you choose to renew through them, you will likely never receive any issues of *Rock & Gem*. If the status of your subscription is in doubt, call our authorized subscription service at **(760) 291-1549** or or e-mail RockAndGem@pcspublink.com and request a reply.”

I am mentioning this because a club member recently received one of these fraudulent renewal mailings, and luckily caught it; but if anyone else is a Rock & Gem subscriber, double check before mailing off your payment!

Upcoming Shows in the area:

Sorry, the show season is pretty much over within daytrip range until March. But if you're lucky enough to have the budget for it, the Tucson shows start January 30th, and Quartzite starts up January 1st! Locally, we can start to look forward to:

February 27-28, Berea, OH – Intergalactic Bead & Jewelry Show. Cuyahoga Fairgrounds, 164 Eastland Rd., Berea, Ohio 44017. <http://beadshows.com/index.jsp>

March 27-28, Hamburg, NY - Show, "Trilobites: Under the Seas of Western New York"; The Buffalo Geological Society; Market & Grange Bldgs., The Fairgrounds in Hamburg, 5600 McKinley Pkwy.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, children 12 and under free; demonstrations, beads, jewelry, private gem collections, unique gifts, children's mini-mine, "Grandpa's Corner"; contact Steve Birtz, 2230 Fix Rd., Grand Island, NY 14072,(716) 773-6386; e-mail: SBirtz@aol.com .

If you're planning to travel elsewhere, 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>). There are lots more shows outside daytrip range!

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.