



# 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 2010

## 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 9<sup>th</sup>**, at **9:30 AM**, at the club room at the **Renaissance Centre building** at **1001 State Street** in **downtown Erie** (southeast corner of 10<sup>th</sup> 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. 10<sup>th</sup> Street just east of the Renaissance Centre building (toward French Street), and it is free to park there on Saturdays!

Our program will be planning club activities for the year – meeting topics, projects, field trips, Show preparations, anything else you'd like to do. This means you all have to **think about these things**.

We usually choose a Club Project sometime in the spring, so that we can shop for any needed materials at our Gem Show in July and also advertise it with show-goers, and then make it in the fall. That's one thing to think about – what sorts of projects you'd like to do. Scan the internet, peruse library books, scan magazines at the bookstore, whatever. Or maybe even, bring along something you've done on your own that others might like to learn from you?

As members of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, we have access to hundreds of video and slide programs in the EFMLS Library, a listing of which is in the EFMLS Directory down at the Club room. So that's another thing to think about -- what do you want to learn about? Then scan the available programs. Or do it the other way around.

We all like to go on Field Trips – though some of us end up going mostly on vicarious, or maybe even virtual, field trips than actually getting out there. Partly, that may be because some of us are limited in how far we can go, and what there is to collect within that range; and maybe we really don't know what all **is** available within, say, daytrip range, or weekend-trip range. But have you looked? Done the research? If you really want to go find some stuff, that's another thing to think about – what types of things you want to find, and how far you can go to get it, and then **research** where we might do that. (We have at least one club member doing great duty on this – see section below). Or field trips to museums, or rock shops (we have one now!), or whatever.

We also need to start thinking about the Gem Show, and start preparations now. We said we'd like to start making Discovery Blocks earlier this year – how about right after the meeting? We don't

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 <sup>st</sup> 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	

have the large Library display window this summer, but we talked about trying a display at the Ridge Center, and perhaps even some demonstrations – we should investigate that, and think about themes and what we might like to demonstrate. And we need to start publicity sooner – like now! We have all the info and the flyers available, so let's get started!

### **Board Meeting:**

We will be having a board meeting directly following the regular meeting. Primary topics are establishing a budget and any other planning for the activities of the year.

### **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 (2009), your dues are paid through the end of 2010; 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 has worked very well 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! So please help us keep you current by renewing promptly.

### **Federation News:**

The December-January American Federation Newsletter is still online at [http://www.amfed.org/news/n2009\\_12.pdf](http://www.amfed.org/news/n2009_12.pdf).

The Eastern Federation Newsletter, online at <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/efjan10.pdf>, has an article on the 2010 EFMLS Convention March 5-7 hosted this year by the Delaware Mineralogical Society in Stanton, Delaware, which is about 30 minutes from Philadelphia – road trip anyone? The article has details on their show and on other things of interest in the area. There's also an article on the Wildacres sessions, this year April 23-29 (guest speaker Bob Jones, editor of Rock & Gem Magazine and great speaker) and September 6-12 (guest speaker Lisa Carp, gemologist and educator, on gems and the jewelry trade), and a listing of courses for both the Spring and Fall sessions.

### **Rocks & Minerals Magazine Online Article Access:**

Rocks & Minerals Magazine (not Rock & Gem Magazine, which was referenced last month) sent a promotional email to the club, offering online access to two full articles, ***The Joaquín Folch Girona Mineral Collection, Barcelona, Spain*** by Carles Curto Milà and Jordi Fabre i Fornaguera at <http://www.rocksandminerals.org/Back%20Issues/2009/November-December%202009/Folch-Mineral-full.html> and ***A History of Mineral Collecting at the Chino Mine, Grant County, New Mexico*** by Virgil W. Lueth, Ronald B. Gibbs, and Robert M. North at <http://www.rocksandminerals.org/Back%20Issues/2009/November-December%202009/Chino-Mine-full.html>. This is a good opportunity to check out another quality publication related to our hobby – and maybe decide you need to subscribe!

“Rocks & Minerals has been publishing articles on mineralogy, geology, and paleontology since 1926. Regular departments explore important discoveries, minerals for the collector, microminerals, personalities in the field, media reviews, and coming events. Detailed lists of collecting opportunities in specific localities appear periodically, as do theme issues. Spectacular color photographs appear throughout each issue. The magazine works with the Mineralogical

Society of America to promote cooperation between collectors and professional mineralogists. Rocks & Minerals is sold on newsstands from coast to coast.”

If you want the link to subscribe from the email, let me know and I'll forward it to you – it didn't say whether there was a promotional rate or not, but it might be a thing to check out.

### **Area Rockhound Collection Liquidation:**

You have all probably heard from me that I was contacted by the daughter of long-ago members of our club, the Hlynskys of Mentor, OH. Karen Hlynsky has been helping her mother Mary to clean out her house and suitably dispose of a lifetime's possessions as Mary moves into retirement quarters and the house is sold. This includes her father's lifetime collection of minerals, rocks, lapidary materials, etc. When I went out to meet Karen and see the collection in August, the main focus was on selling what could be sold to help fund Mary's retirement care; unfortunately, with the economic downturn, most of us have less money for discretionary spending, and I think the result was disappointing to Karen. When she called me again a couple of weeks ago, she said the focus has shifted to getting it all GONE so the house can be sold. I hope to get back out there, and thought we might discuss carpooling if anyone else wants to go too. Check your calendars! We'll talk at the meeting.

### **Possible Field Trip Locations:**

Every year, we say we want to go on more field trips. And every year, someone (usually Ed, but others too) come up with something, and sometimes we even go. But while there are a few places we're happy to go back to, we usually want to see something new, too –but that requires **research** (*euwww!*).

Well, luck us, we have a *junior* member who actually did some research for the rest of us and found descriptions of a Uvite (form of black tourmaline) Excavation, at Powers Farm, Pierrepont, New York (<http://geologicdesires.com/fieldcollectingnewyorkstepowersfarmpierrepontnewyork.htm> and <http://geologicdesires.com/powers%20farm%20article.htm>). Pierrepont is in upstate NY – *really* upstate, like almost halfway between Watertown and Montreal, a 6-7 hour drive from Erie, so not a daytrip, but maybe a weekend-trip. And it's got really cool minerals, which is what Ray is interested in, so that's what he researched. There are a few other nearby sites also described on the site, if you wanted to check out the area, and also descriptions of two sites for Herkimers.

These are great Virtual Field Trips, and the info could be used to plan an Actual Field Trip. If you don't like this particular idea, look around for something else. The problem isn't that there's no info on the internet, but that there's too much, and winnowing through it is quite a job – one that's best distributed, so look around for what *you'd* like to find, or where *you'd* like to go, and see what collecting sites you may find to share with the rest of us!

### **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 the Tucson shows start January 30<sup>th</sup>, and Quartzite started up January 1<sup>st</sup>! 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](mailto: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.



# GEM CITY ROCK & MINERAL SOCIETY

## Membership Renewal Form 2010



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:

\_\_\_\_\_

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Bring completed form with dues to next meeting, or mail to:

Gem City Rock & Mineral Society  
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Erie, PA 16512