



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 2010



Last Month's Meeting:

Last month we had a choice of several video programs to watch, and chose one from the Smithsonian on the mining and cutting of gems – but the others looked interesting too, so maybe we'll have to get to them on another occasion. We made more Discovery Blocks, so we should have a good supply this year!

This Month's Meeting:

This month our meeting will be Saturday, **March 6th**, 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 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 most Saturdays.

We will be making a basic wire-wrapping project – an Adjustable Filigree Ring. See the instructions for making it online at <http://wire-sculpture.com/pages/jewelrypattern105.html>. Bring your pliers! The club has the required wire in sterling (\$2), and in brass (practice wire - free). If you like the ring, you can order gold-filled wire to make one in gold, and if more than one person is interested in that, we'll try to arrange a combined order for best price.



Board Meeting:

We will try once again to have a board meeting directly following the regular meeting. Primary topics are establishing a budget and any other planning for the activities of the year. We will also have a show committee meeting, either before or after the board meeting, to discuss some of the advance-planning aspects we need to start thinking about.

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

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

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. Those not current on their dues **by April 3** 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 March American Federation Newsletter is online at http://www.amfed.org/news/n2010_03.pdf, and has an article on spreading the word about the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America program, and all the info available on the web site at <http://www.amfed.org/kids.htm> . If we had a Junior Activities Coordinator, we could help coordinate activities to earn the 15 free activity badges in the program – or even help them earn them through home self-study. The safety article is on treatment of snakebite, which we seldom have to worry about in this area – but seldom isn't never, and because it's uncommon, many people don't know the recommended treatment, so check it out!

The Eastern Federation Newsletter, online at <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/efmar10.pdf>, has a safety article on evaluating conditions for field trips, and allowing for cancellation if the weather doesn't cooperate – something to keep in mind as we choose our date (and possibly a backup date) for our trip to Batavia. The spring session of Wildacres (April 23-29) is filling up but not yet full, and fall session (September 6-12) still has plenty of openings.

Field Trip for Staghorn Coral:

At the March meeting, we will be choosing a date in April for our spring trip to collect Staghorn Coral near Batavia, NY. If you haven't been, this site is about a 2-1/2 hour drive to a site with really easy collecting of Staghorn Coral, along with some other corals and other fossils, including a few trilobites (though I have only gotten pieces of them – still trying for a whole one!). The site is a streambed in a farmer's field, and while you can find fossils closer, you can't find them this thickly scattered or easily collectable! It's worth the drive! We collect enough to put in our Discovery Blocks for the kids at our Gem Show, and that means we need to collect a few hundred specimens of an appropriate size – this takes only a couple of hours, generally.

If you have been, you know this is a fun trip, and lots more fun if there are first-timers and/or kids along – and there are 2 Scout troops that might send a few along with their parents. Here's hoping! For a write-up of a past trip, check out the Field Trips page at the club web site at <http://www.gemcityrockclub.org/batavia.htm> .

Work in / on the Club Meeting Rooms:

We have been in our new space for a couple of years now, and unpacking / organizing has been slow, since we're still learning which areas remain dry (the hazards of a basement!). But we've taken some major steps recently – we have set up some shelving that Ed scavenged for us, and are slowly figuring out what to put on them (though not big boxes of rocks, apparently – not many shelves are up to that!).

And we have cleaned and re-assembled our larger, 18" slab saw, ready for its new coolant. We have only a couple more minor parts to replace, and if all goes as planned, we will get them installed after the meeting, so that we can get to the fun part – the Pouring In of the Coolant, and the Cutting of the First Rock in our new home!

Now we just need to hang a few more lights in the storage areas, and maybe we can start finding all those things we must have around here *somewhere*....

WQLN Spring Auction:

We have been asked again if we would contribute some items to the WQLN Spring Auction, and also if we would take a shift manning the phones during the auction. This year we can probably get a little more organized for it since we have more than 3 week's notice – the Auction is May 19-23 this year. Check your calendars, and we'll start trying to think of when we might man the phones and what we might donate. Last year, we donated 3 Tree of Life pendants, an agate cab pendant that Val cut and made the setting for, a large fossil coral head, and a kid's package of minerals, fossils, and reference stuff. Val thought we might include a membership if we do another kid's package – or we might donate a family membership? Anything else we can think of?

Upcoming Shows in the area:

The shows within driving distance are starting back up again this month (Yea!!):

March 12-14, Berea, OH -- Show and sale; **GemStreet USA**; The Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, The Arts & Craft Bldg, 164 Eastland Rd.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; fine gems, jewelry, beads, fossils, minerals; contact Jane Strieter Smith, (216) 521-4367; Web site: www.gemstreetusa.com

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 .

March 27-28, Sayre, PA - 41st Annual Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club Show sponsored by the Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club. Athens Twp. Volunteer Fire Hall, 211 Herrick Ave.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, students \$1, children under 8 free; Carnegie Museum exhibits and silent auctions, Paleontological Research Institute fossil exhibit, kids' activities, club displays, retail dealers; contact Bob McGuire, 224 Church St., Lopez, PA 19628, (570) 928-9238; e-mail: uvbob@epix.net

April 17-18, 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, (724) 327-8618; e-mail: show@monongahelarockhounds.org; Web site: www.monongahelarockhounds.org

April 24-25, Cuyahoga Falls, OH - Show, "**Gemboree**"; Akron Mineral Society & Summit Lapidary Club; Emidio & Sons Expo Center, 48 E. Bath Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-6; adults \$5, students and seniors \$4, children \$1; lapidary demonstrations, art and educational displays, gem identification, geode cracking, gem mine, make-and-take projects for children, dealers, door prizes, silent auction; contact Evelyn Tryon, 2028 Tallmadge Rd., Kent, OH 44240, (330) 673-9664; e-mail: etjrtryon@juno.com; Web site: www.LapidaryClubofOhio.org

April 30-May2, St. George, Ontario, Canada - Spring Open House; Robert Hall Originals; 138 Sugar Maple Rd.; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; free admission; rocks, minerals, gems, beads, lapidary demonstrations; contact Robert Hall Originals, P.O. Box 29, 138 Sugar Maple Rd., St. George, ON, N0E 1N0, (519) 448-1236; e-mail: robert@roberthalloriginals.com; Web site: www.roberthalloriginals.com

May 1-2, Washington, PA - Annual spring show, "**Greater Pittsburgh Area Gem, Mineral, Bead & Jewelry Show**"; F.M. Minerals; Washington, County Fairgrounds, 2151 N. Main St.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$4, children 12 and under free with adult; dealers, jewelry, metaphysical minerals, bench jeweler, beads, gemstones, wire wrapping; contact F.M. Minerals, P.O. Box 252, Farmington, WV 26571, (304) 825-6845; e-mail: frankoz@juno.com

May 7-9, Henrietta (Rochester), NY - Show and sale; **GemStreet USA**; The Monroe Fair & Expo Center, 2695 East Henrietta Rd.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; fine gems, jewelry, beads, fossils, minerals; contact Jane Strieter Smith, (216) 521-4367; Web site: www.gemstreetusa.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:

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

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