



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



June 2010

Last Month's Meeting:

Last month we discussed putting together a permanent collection and display of **Minerals and Their Uses** and decided it would be a good project that will take a little time. We will be posting a page on the club's web site to keep track of what we have, and what more we'd like for the display, and maybe we can do a little shopping for some stuff at our show next month!

This Month's Meeting:

This month our meeting will be Saturday, **June 5th**, 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 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 refining plans for the **Minerals and their Uses** display and doing more specific show planning. We'll be talking about Show displays, show setup and sing-ups, and the (probable) potluck dinner for club members and dealers after the Friday setup at the arena.

July Meeting date:

The club meets on the first Saturday of each month – except when that runs into a holiday, as it usually does in July with July 4th being a generally heavily-traveled long holiday weekend. We usually then push the meeting back to the 2nd Saturday, but since our Gem Show is the 3rd weekend, that means we scurry around collecting all the things we need to take out to the Arena for the Show. We thought if there were any possibility of putting on a public demo in conjunction with a display that 2nd weekend, we might move the July meeting to the last weekend in June to free up the time, but so far, we haven't scheduled one. So will be free to have the July meeting on **July 10th**, unless we think there's still some benefit to moving it to **June 26th**. We will decide at this month's meeting.

Federation News:

The American Federation newsletter at http://www.amfed.org/news/n2010_06.pdf has an article on Forming a Youth Group in your Club, which lists 6 key steps – the first of which is where we have our problem: finding an adult to be your "Kids' Champion" – someone committed to leading programs / providing activities. As we've said for quite a while, the only thing you have to have is time and enthusiasm – *expertise is not required!* There are plenty of resources available to help anyone who's interested, and will commit the time! Oh well – we're still looking.

The Eastern Federation Newsletter at <http://www.amfed.org/efms/efjune10.pdf> has notes on the Wildacres Spring session, and class listings for the Fall Session. The Safety article is on one aspect of field collecting that we often forget about – communication! This means both letting someone know where you'll be *before* you wander off into the rough, and taking a cell phone with you, even if part of your trek is outside cell range. It also means taking a buddy (since of course we would *never collect alone*, right?) and not losing him/her. There is also a

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	

notification of several collecting trips sponsored by the Maine Geological Survey and the Maine Mineral Symposium Association – info is online at www.maine.gov/nrimc/mgs/explore/minerals/fieldtrips/fieldtrips.htm .

Show stuff:

Time to start the nitty-gritty work for the Show! We need to start the actual rounding up of all the stuff we need to transport for the Show, and see if there is anything we need to repair / replace / acquire. We need to see what materials we have for the Children's Activities, and if we need to acquire a few things or maybe pass on one of the activities this year – it's hard to find enough manpower for all of the activities every year, so most years we pick and choose.

We also need to plan for the Potluck Dinner for club members and the Dealers on Friday after Show Setup if we're going to have it – after last year's show, we decided we'd like to do it again, but we need to make formal plans. And we need to decide how we're going to deal with concessions this year.

Displays for Gem Show:

The club has several display cases in a few different sizes, none of which are currently in use. Last month, we decided that we should try to fill some of them with something interesting for viewing at the Gem Show next month. There are 3 cases that are quite small – about 18 inches high and wide, and 11 inches deep if memory serves – and a few more in various larger sizes. The largest of them would be a challenge to move, though not too big challenge if we had sufficient reason – but we haven't done much with displays at our show in recent years, so we thought we'd start small.

Since we haven't done any formal displays recently, let alone done any judging of them, we aren't worrying about making any competition-level displays for this year; we just thought we'd get **something** in the cases that would be interesting to look at. We'll probably set them up just beyond the children's activities where we had extra space last year.

Several people expressed interest in putting some of their treasures on view, so I hope you've looked through your stuff and decided what you have and what size case you'd like to use for it. This month we will assign specific cases to those interested, and if it's feasible, you may take the case home with you to work on it. Some of the cases may need a little TLC, and some may just need work on appropriate risers or arrangements.

It would be lovely to have the large cases filled with themed displays of minerals collected or projects made by the club's members, all with Federation-rules-compliant signs and labels that we've seen at the shows of the larger clubs – but that's not something you toss together at the last minute, and we have no experience with that type of display, so for this year at least, the only requirement is something interesting to look at and labels to tell us all what it is. Keep in mind the probable viewing distance when making your labels, and if you need help – either with what the labels should say or the making of them, we can work that out at the July meeting so long as you know what your display will contain by then, so get busy! ☺

Minerals and Their Everyday Uses Display:

We've decided that making up a permanent display set of **Minerals and Their Everyday Uses** will be more like a year-long project, that we can hope to finish for next summer. The display made by the Buffalo club used basic wood plaques -- Kirk said he could edge-route some for us if we buy a nice length of 1x10 or 1x12, and we can laminated cards with the info.

We are starting to collect specimens of minerals (maybe one nice crystal-type and a massive/ industrial hunk of most items), and examples of the items made from them. Since this will be a permanent display set, in that we'd keep it all together to re-display periodically, it would be more a donation than a loan if you have something to contribute; but many of us have some inexpensive specimens that we could put to better use.

A good number for a set would probably be in the range of 8 to 12 different mineral, but there are lots more than that, so we thought we'd start out with a big list and see what we end up collecting first. I'll post a list on our web site so we can all keep track of what we have, and what we'd still like – concentrating on those minerals for which we already have one part of the display. If you think of anything not in this list that you think is pretty interesting, please let me know and I'll add it. Currently, our possibilities are:

<u>Mineral</u>	<u>Uses</u>	<u>Nice Crystal?</u>	<u>Massive Specimen?</u>
Dolomite – $\text{CaMg}(\text{CO}_3)_2$	Cement		Y
Talc – $\text{Mg}_3\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})$	baby powder, paints, plastics, linoleum		
Chalcopyrite – CuFeS_2	Copper ore for electrical wiring, plumbing pipes, cookware, pennies		
Malachite – $\text{Cu}_2\text{CO}_3(\text{OH})_2$ / Azurite – $\text{Cu}_3(\text{CO}_3)_2(\text{OH})_2$	Copper ores, pigments, jewelry & decorative items		
Pyrite – FeS_2	Sulfur for Sulfuric Acid, iron ore for Steel, inks	Y	
Hematite – Fe_2O_3	Iron ore for steel, jewelry, magnets		
Galena – PbS	lead ore, for lead-acid batteries, lead shielding	Y	
Halite – NaCl	table salt, road salt		
Sphalerite – ZnS	zinc ore for galvanizing steel, combining with copper for brass		
Quartz – SiO_2	Glass, ceramics, electronics	Y	Y
Fluorite – CaF_2	toothpaste, enameling, flux for steelmaking	Y	
Calcite – CaCO_3	used in blackboard chalk, antacids	Y	Y
Kyanite – Al_2SiO_5	Pottery & ceramics, electronic insulator		Y
Mica (group)	Electronic insulator, windows in stoves / boilers (“isinglass”), paints and pigments, makeup		Y

This is our starter list -- see how many more you can come up with. See what specimens you have that you could part with, and **bring them along to the meeting**. It would be ideal to find a crystal and an industrial/massive form of each, but we can start with anything.

And remember, for everything we use, if it can't be grown, it must be mined!

WQLN Spring Auction:

WQLN Spring Auction was May 19-23 this year, and the club sent several people to work the second evening shift on the 19th, from 8:30 – 10:30 (had that wrong last month – but we got it straightened out). **Those of us who went had a good time!** I did take my own phone, and yes, it was much easier to hear than the phones they provide there – since I had to go in earlier than the group, I left my phone for Dodie to use on that second shift, so we'll ask whether she thought it helped as much. A thing to remember if we do it again next year. Word is, the Auction did very well for them – Becky Anderson at WQLN said, “Even though we had fewer donations this year, the donations we did receive were of such quality and interest, that they made up for the shortage.” She went on to say, “I also want to thank you and your club members for not only donating to the auction, but also for volunteering for the phones and such. Great groups like yours are a wonderful asset to our community!... Again, thank you and all of the members of the Gem City Rock and Mineral Society for all you have done to help us. You are all gems in our book!”

As for items donated -- this year, we donated 2 packs of 4 tickets for Free Adult Admission to our Gem Show next month (I'll bring a sample so those who work admission can see the official ones with the raised Club Seal), 2 Tree of Life pendants, a wire-wrapped ring, a pair of

Blue Topaz earring, and 2 kid's packs, one of minerals and one of fossils, each with reference stuff. This made 8 total items, which helps our local PBS station stay on the air and since the items were donated by 4 different club members wasn't too heavy a burden (we hope) for any one member while gaining the club some great exposure. All the items sold, still waiting on how much they went for. We put club cards and Show Flyers in with each item (and we hope they stayed with them until the winners picked them up!), so that should help even more! Thanks to all who helped with this!

Field Trip to Cleveland Zoo for *Dinosaurs!*:

The **Cleveland Metroparks Zoo** is again putting on their ***Dinosaurs!*** display this summer (http://www.clemetzoo.com/events/event.asp?event_id=101):

"Cleveland Metroparks Zoo promises a summer of monstrous proportions with ***DINOSAURS!*** ***DINOSAURS!*** takes you on a prehistoric journey to the wooded shores of the Zoo's Waterfowl Lake, where you'll encounter life-size animatronic dinosaurs that move and roar just like the originals.

Back for its fifth season at the Zoo since 2003, this wildly popular exhibit features 18 super-sized creatures that seemingly come to life. Built on steel frames and powered by air pistons and state-of-the-art electronics, these lifelike giants move and roar along the shores of the Zoo's Waterfowl Lake. This summer, ***DINOSAURS!*** features returning favorites like the mighty Tyrannosaurus rex and the water-spewing Dilophosaurus, while introducing new specimens like the thick-horned Carnotaurus and the toothy Sarcosuchus. Half of the robotic giants have never before been seen at the Zoo."

Those club members who've seen the exhibit say it is well worthwhile, so we decided to arrange a club carpooling trip, after the Gem Show. Admission to the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo is free for members of the Erie Zoo, and \$10 for adults (age 12 and older) and \$7 for Children (2-11) for non-members; the ***Dinosaurs!*** exhibit is \$1 more. We will be choosing a date at the Show, to get together and carpool.

Upcoming Shows in the area:

Here are the shows within day-trip driving distance:

June 4-6, Wauseon (Toledo), OH - Show; **State Line Gem & Mineral Society**; Fulton County (Ohio) Fair Grounds, 8514 SR 108, Ohio Turnpike Exit 34; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 11-4; free admission; **MSHA mine safety class Sat., (\$30 includes book)**, soapstone carving class (\$15 includes soapstone), beaded jewelry class, demonstrations (cabochon cutting and polishing, flint knapping, silver casting), micro mounts and sand, fluorescent minerals, wire wrapping, spool knitting, faceting, glass fusing, kids' grab bags, silent auctions, door prizes, raffle; contact Doris Brzezicki, 419 N. Broad St., Adrian, MI 49221, (517) 263-1669; e-mail: rychard@tc3net.com; Web site: www.angelfire.com/mac/rock-club/

June 24, Rochester, NY - Show, "**Rings & Things BeadTour**"; Rings & Things; Monroe Community College, Brighton Campus, Bldg. #3, Monroe A & B, R. Thomas Flynn Campus Center, 1000 E. Henrietta Rd.; Thu. 12-5; free admission; gemstones, bead strands, wholesale prices, findings, stringing supplies; contact Dave Robertson, (800) 366-2156; e-mail: drobertson@rings-things.com; Web site: www.rings-things.com

July 17-18, Erie, PA - **41st annual show; Gem City Rock & Mineral Society; JMC Ice Arena, 423 W. 38th St.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, seniors \$2, children under 12 free; rocks, gems, jewelry, minerals, fossils, wire wrapping, findings, beads, Mini-Mine, Discovery Blocks; contact Bob Gallivan, (814) 454-6770; e-mail: gallivan@lycos.com; Web Site: www.gemcityrockclub.org/show.htm**

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.